APPENDIX A

MR. A. F. CLIFFORD'S SPEECH.

BEFORE THE REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY,

On Thursday, the 10th October 1889.

As one of the representatives of the Mysore Planters' Association, I have been asked to make a few remarks before the Representative Assembly in Mysore on the subject of our old standing grievance, the Breach of Contract Act.

Mr. Grahame Anderson addressed this Assembly last year and his speech I need hardly say embodied our views exactly in reference to the disadvantages under which we labored. Another year has passed however and nothing has been done and I venture now to make a strong appeal to the Council of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore to help us out of our difficulties.

I most respectfully beg to submit that in the first place the Act as it stands is inadequate for and requires amendment; in the second place that even as it does stand directly to the disadvantage of the Planters; it is hardly that we are placed in a most unfair position by being deprived of it, in so far as it relates to absconding coolies who live in or have taken refuge in Her Majesty's Territory.

With reference to the first head, I would beg to remind the Council of His Highness that our Association addressed you on the subject of the amendment of the Act some time ago and I would ask you whether it is not possible to submit some such amendment or additional Act to make it more suited to the requirements of the present day. As far as I can understand, the present Act was never intended for agricultural districts but was drafted as a measure applicable to workmen and artificers employed by tradesmen and manufacturers in towns and manufacturing centres—it is cumbrous and practically unworkable so far as Planters are concerned—setting apart however this latter question the fact remains that in order to carry on the cultivation of our estates and to obtain coolies for that purpose we are obliged to advance sums to coolies and mestris varying from Rs. 5 for the former to Rs. 1,000 for the latter. As the Act now stands, a mestri can obtain money up to any extent from a Planter—to bring coolies and to work himself on an estate—and can use it for an entirely different purpose and abscond with the very comfortable knowledge that he cannot, even if caught, receive more than 3 months' imprisonment. I venture to remark that such a state of things is a direct inducement to the fraudulent appropriation of money received.

I now come to the old agreement that has been used against us, *viz.*, that the advances we give to irresponsible persons are excessive and that as we are wilfully putting temptation in these persons' way we are ourselves therefore responsible for the state of things existing. To this I reply that we did not ourselves introduce the system of advances into Mysore but that it has existed from time immemorial and that if an advance is necessary to induce people to work in Bangalore and the maidan country, how much more unlikely it is that coolies will leave their houses to go to live and work in a Jungle District without a still larger advance than is customary among themselves. I would also ask whether it is likely that a body of men who have lived many years in this country, who are in straitened circumstances and who have small capital would continue to make large advances with a certainty of a loss of 30 per cent or 40 per cent under the existing state of things if they could obtain labor without doing so.

Having therefore brought forward the inadequacy of the Act, I wish to bring to notice the second part of our position which is that its provisions are strained to operate to the disadvantage of the Planter. I wish it to be most distinctly under-

stood that we have no complaint whatever against the Native gentlemen, who act as Magistrates in the Coffee Districts. They, being residents among us, know the difficulties under which we labor, and are, I believe, anxious to do us justice, but we regret to say that from inadequate knowledge of the circumstances we cannot but think that the High Court of Mysore as is plainly evinced from some of its judgments on appeal takes a *primâ facie* view in cases under Breach of Contract Act, that the Planter is an extortioner, that he oppresses and ill-treats his coolies, and that he wishes to take advantage of the Act to reduce them to a state of slavery. I venture most respectfully to submit to the Members of His Highness' Council that no greater mistake was ever made. I most confidently state that Planters are lenient and scrupulously honest in their dealings towards their coolies, that they treat them well, that were this not the case the large number of coolies who work year by year with them will soon cease to do so. Unfortunately however a large number of them are not proof against the temptations offered by taking advances from three or four estates and the Planter is now almost powerless to prevent a state of things which is growing worse yearly. All we ask is that a contract between the Planter and laborer or mestri may be made capable of being enforced and that the Planting Community as a body may be given the credit of acting with good intentions towards their employés, and that in fact were it otherwise they would be pursuing a policy which would certainly operate to their disadvantage.

The question of the extension of the working of the Act to British Territory is, we know, one of difficulty but we are [illegible] great hope that some way may be found out of it. Large numbers of coolies from [illegible] the Bombay Presidency, tapped by it. Against these people, we have at present in possible that the new line of Railway just opened may bring more with us and it is remedy whatever and if it be asked why we make advances to them, we reply that we must have labor to cultivate our estate or abandon them and that having sunk individually what is to us a large amount of capital in the industry, we ask the support of Government in a matter which is to us of the most vital importance.

Other matters to which I shall briefly allude are the extension of the Telegraph to the Planting Districts and the further extension of the Railway. Our Association, as you are doubtless aware, has been long agitating for the former and as the Railway is now completed to Kadur we would urge on the Darbar to establish Telegraph Offices at the Chief Planting centres as soon as possible. These, I am confident, would pay well and would be hailed by both the Native and European Community as a boon of the greatest value.

We are informed that the extension of the Southern Mahratta system is now receiving the attention of the Mysore Government and I have been therefore asked to take this opportunity of strongly advocating on the part not only of our Association, but of the merchants and inhabitants of the Kadur District, the construction of a branch line to Chikmagalur from Kadur. Chikmagalur is a place yearly growing in importance and it needs only railway communication to firmly establish it as one of the most prosperous towns in the Mysore Province.

I have only to say in conclusion that though I have pressed on this occasion for a settlement of what we consider to be our great grievance, yet it would be out of place on my part were I to attend to nothing else. I have spoken on this point and I am confident that the Government of His Highness the Maharaja will help us to the best of their ability, but as I have not come here simply to grumble, I wish to say that the Planters fully appreciate the advantages they enjoy under the liberal and enlightened Government of Mysore, and that they gladly avail themselves of this opportunity to place on record the fact that they are alive to the sense of their good fortune in being connected with the most enlightened, the most prosperous, and the best governed Native State in India.

The Dewan pointed out that Magistrates exercising these powers were very few and the cases tried by them were trivial cases and few in number. He said, he himself was not in favor of granting this power and he avoided granting it, except to officers of long experience and sound discretion. He drew attention to the existence of the Bench Magistrates in the Civil and Military Station, and said he would watch their working and see if the system could be introduced into the Bangalore City.

10. The last subject discussed by Mr. Appajaiya was, the separation of Magisterial and Police functions from the Revenue officer of the Taluk: all the well known and often repeated objections against continuing all these functions in one man in the Taluk were repeated. There was on the other side, the whole body of the representatives from every Taluk, strongly protesting against this separation, on the ground that when for a short time the jurisdictions were separated, the high handed proceedings of the Police Inspector were insupportable, that the Taluk Amildar was incapable of doing any thing in behalf of the people and his interference was resented by the Police local officer, often supported by his superior officer as well, and that henceforward, the Amildar became a marked man. The members begged that no such scheme as that proposed on theoretical grounds by Mr. Appajaiya might be considered, and they added that no practical objection against the existing arrangement was set forth and that they were perfectly content to live under it. The members also drew the attention of the Dewan to the fact that positively 3rd Class Magistrate's cases of petty nature alone were, as a rule, tried by the Amildars, that in cases of theft and other serious crimes, in which they might have interfered as Police officers, care was taken to commit them to higher Courts.

The Dewan replied that the question would be considered.

The Municipality of Bangalore.

Messrs. Doddi Venkatramanappa Chetti and Annaiyappa Chetti proposed that an additional Munsiff's Court might be located in Bangalore, the file in the present single Court being heavy and unmanageable by one Munsiff. The Deputy Commissioner supported the proposal.

The Dewan referred it to the Officiating Chief Judge present, for consideration and report to Government, of measures that might be deemed necessary for adoption.

2. Regarding Shanbhogs and Patels, the members urged, that in consideration of the hereditary claim of the incumbents and their family, to the office in question, they or their families might not be deprived of the right altogether, and that for serious faults of the incumbents, the latter alone might be punished, their heirs being permitted to get into the vacant office.

The Dewan explained that the families of the rightful Shanbhogs and Patels were deprived of their hereditary hak in cases in which the incumbents were guilty of serious crimes, such as misappropriation of Government money, commission or abetting the commission of highway robbery, dacoity and murder; that this was the rule from time immemorial, he might say, and he was sure the village officers concerned were perfectly cognizant of this fact and that if in spite of this knowledge, they committed the serious offences above enumerated, there was nothing hard in inflicting on them the penalty of forfeiture of hak.

3. It was proposed that the old rule which granted pension to the subordinate Police officers might be revived and the present rule awarding gratuity might be withdrawn.

The Dewan said, he would consider the proposal.

4. The grievance of heavy cost incurred by clients by the printing of records in the Chief Court was this year again put forward: the members recommended that in the smaller suits, there might be no printing of the records, limiting the printing to cases of over Rs. 1,000 in value.

The Dewan referred the subject to the Officiating Chief Judge for favorable consideration, if possible.

5. The members protested against the collection of miras from Inamdars, by the Shanbhogs in the Inam villages. They pleaded that the officers did no work for the Inamdars; that often they set up raiyats against the Inamdars and did any amount of mischief: the Inamdars had no objection against the enjoyment of the Shanbhog Inam land in the village by the officers, and if in the opinion of the Government this remuneration was considered inadequate, the Inamdars were willing to pay a certain cess in addition, calculated on each rupee of the Government gutta amount, where the Inam villages were subject to a Kayamgutta or jodi, or a reasonable lump sum in the case of Sarvamanya villages.

The Dewan regretted he could not grant the request which would be to upset the old vested and valuable interests of the Shanbhogs and Patels. He added that he could not understand why the Inamdars were unable to utilize the services of these officers who were bound to render the service expected of them and were liable to dismissal in case of default.

Mr. Kaloji Rao of the Bangalore City brought forward the question of the abolition of the loom-tax, and of the speedy decision in *re* the water supply for the Town of Bangalore. The Dewan referred him to replies given to the member Mr. Appajaiya.

6. He contended that the fee of 3 pies levied on each head load of firewood brought into the City was felt a burden by the petty traders and strongly recommended its abolition.

The Dewan pointed out that the person who paid the fee was the consumer and not the cooly who brought the wood into the City, and that the grievance was quite imaginary.

7. It was pleaded that excesses in minor Inams were granted to outsiders, which was hard and that it should be continued to the Inamdars themselves.

The Dewan enquired in what cases the excesses were so given away. The member could not give particulars. The Dewan explained to him that when excess was found in minor Inams, 50 per cent of the excess was, under the rules, given back to the Inamdars as Inam, and the remaining 50 per cent was fully assessed and left in the possession of the Inamdars who might either keep it or give it up; lands so given up were of course available for others and not otherwise.

Dodballapur Taluk.

Mr. Nanjundappa of Dodballapur noticed that notifications of Public Works Department inviting tenders for execution of works were published in English in the Government Gazette and that several men, competent and eager to take up such contracts had, in consequence of their ignorance of the English language, no means of knowing in time, the fact of such publication of these notifications; he requested that they might be published in Canarese in the Gazette and in the Taluks and villages where the works were to be executed. The Dewan requested the Public Works Secretary present to make a note of it and issue the necessary instructions accordingly.

2. Favorable assessment for lands that might be taken up for cotton and wheat cultivation was recommended. The Dewan pointed out that the old rate was Rs. 3 per acre, while the present rate was one rupee. He thought the recommendation was unreasonably partial in favor of the grower.

3. Complaints were made that Hobli School masters were indifferent in their work, and the suggestion was made that they should be made to draw their monthly pay upon the certificate of the Patels or the Shanbhog and some of the leading raiyats in the village, that the masters were attentive. The Dewan did not think that would answer the purpose intended. He promised early formation of Committees under the Local Fund Act, who would have charge of these schools. He also drew the attention of the Deputy Commissioners and Amildars to the comparatively little interest taken in these institutions by the Revenue officers and hoped that greater zeal would be shown by them.

Hoskote Taluk.

Messrs. Nandagudi Ramanna and Patel Venkategauda complained that the Toddy contractors, having the monopoly of the vend of toddy, did not care to enter into any reasonable settlement with the Inamdars, whose toddy trees standing on their property had thereby ceased to be a source of their legitimate income. The members said that the contractors sometimes refused to draw toddy from the Inam trees, commanding, as they did, the large date groves on Government lands. Sometimes they drew toddy, but offered most inadequate price for the article, and the Inamdars were at the mercy of the contractors, Government having prohibited the sale of the toddy by the Inamdars in their villages.

The Dewan explained that adequate powers were given to the Deputy Commissioners to enquire into each individual case and decide on the merits; that the award to the Inamdar where he was entitled to the toddy revenue, was to be based with reference to previous receipts during a series of years; and that the award was to be collected from the contractors summarily. The Dewan added that either the contractor, or the Inamdar was entitled to an appeal to Government against the Deputy Commissioner's decision. The members were satisfied with this settlement.

2. Regarding Kodagi Inams the members urged that all such inams might be enfranchised on ¼ quit-rent. The Dewan referred them to his address, where the question was fully discussed and where the Government decision in regard to these inams was clearly set forth. He said it satisfied the Inamdars as a body.

3. The members appealed to Government for aid in getting earthwork done to tanks in Inam villages by raiyats holding land under them. The Dewan regretted he could not interfere and that the Government policy was not to enforce this labor in cases of Government tanks where the raiyats were unwilling.

4. The Dewan was informed of the existence of large extent of waste land under Amani Doddakere of Hoskote and some other tanks as well. Recommendation in favor of batayi tenure was made in these cases.

The Dewan said it would be a very retrogade step to revive batayi with all its abuses.

5. ~~Mr. Sadasiva Rao,~~ representing the Municipality of Dodballapur, was absent, and the subjects of that Municipality were not discussed.

6. The Kankanhalli Taluk members were absent and the subjects of that Taluk were not discussed.

Nelamangala Taluk.

Mr. Channalingegauda represented that in some of the villages there were no gomal lands from the fact that every inch of ground in them was under cultivation and there were gomals in the neighbouring villages ample to meet their own requirements and those of the villages without this advantage. He saw no reason why these latter villages should not be permitted to take their cattle to them. He pleaded that local jealousy was causing a great deal of objection, and begged the Government might interfere.

The Dewan said that wherever such an arrangement was possible without affecting unduly local interests, the Deputy Commissioner was competent to insist upon it

KOLAR DISTRICT.

The representative members of this District, as a body, submitted the following recommendations :—

1. That all ruined temples should be restored, the cost being met by the devotees of the temple and the residents of the villages and towns in which the temples were situated, assisted by a grant-in-aid from Government ; that after such restoration, the Inams of which the temples were once in possession, should be restored to them.

2. That in large towns situated on any high road, arrangements should be made for feeding daily 12 Brahmins gratis, and that the Local Funds should contribute for this purpose.

3. That the old custom of offering prayers and performing the prescribed ceremonies for securing good season should be revived.

The Dewan pointed out that as regards ruined temples the recommendation was too general and that funds required for the purpose of restoration would be beyond the means at the disposal of Government. He added that Government would willingly come forward to help local attempts by free grant of timber to a reasonable limit. He reminded the members that temples of great architectural merit and also otherwise famous as places of particular import were now kept in order by Government.

The recommendation on behalf of gratuitous feeding was certainly in his opinion not deserving of consideration ; in almost all wayside towns on important high roads there was a feeding chattrâm in each, and that the Government could not multiply these provisions : private charity should co-operate with Government in this respect.

The revival of prayer for good seasons was not, in the Dewan's opinion, one requiring Government interference. He drew the attention of the representatives to the liberal grant of Inams to Brahmins who were morally bound to arrange for these prayers and ceremonies, and said that the representatives might justly call upon them to congregate for the purpose.

2. The members advocated grant of land free of charge for construction of chattrams, musafarkhanas and for the planting of charitable topes. The Dewan referred them to the standing rules on the subject.

3. Schools for Védic instructions were considered necessary to counteract the rapid degeneration of the Hindu youths. The Dewan said that in Bangalore and Mysore such schools have been established and they could not be conveniently multiplied.

4. There was an unanimous application for a caste compounder in Hospitals and Dispensaries and the members urged that the Hindus felt a repugnance to take medicines prepared by compounders of no caste. The Senior Surgeon admitted the reasonableness of the objection and said that efforts would be made to obtain Brahmin compounders. The Dewan approved.

5. Want of a second appeal was urged as a grievance ; the appeals against the Munsiff's decrees were now heard in the Chief Court ; the members were anxious that the Bangalore Sub-Judge should hear and dispose of them, and the Chief Court should hear the special appeals. The subject would be discussed with the Chief Court and decided.

6. Formation of Village Munsiffs' Courts or a Court of panchayat for decision of Small Causes of Rs. 50 and downwards was advocated. The Dewan said the subject was under consideration, and he was prepared to try the scheme in big towns and District Head-quarters.

7. The members discussed the tank repairs rules and the liability of raiyats to contribute in labor and money ; they were referred to the replies given to the Bangalore members.

It will interest you to know that a scheme is now under discussion to extend the Mysore Branch as far as Nanjangud and thence on to Gudalur at the foot of Nilgherri Hills. Whether such a line, of incalculable benefit to our most Southern Taluks, will eventually take precedence of that proposed to connect Bangalore with Hindupur or Seringapatam with Arsikere *viâ* Hassan, it is as yet impossible to say. Meanwhile the traffic on our open line, I am glad to say, continues to increase slowly but steadily and there can be little doubt that the early opening of the line as far as Harihar will give an immense impetus to our commercial progress all over the Province.

Public Works.—And now I turn to that part of our Public Works policy in which the majority of the community are most keenly interested—I refer to Irrigation. The object and scope of our policy on this subject are fully illustrated by our Public Works Budget for the current year, to which I request your careful attention

You will observe therefrom that, towards Public Works of all kinds, we have made from the Provincial Revenue a grant of twenty lakhs of rupees, a proportion of our resources which—other claims and services and our general financial position considered—must be taken as most liberal. This grant is swelled by the addition of Rs. 5,29,000 from District Funds, Rs. 2,00,000 from the Provincial Irrigation Fund and Rs. 92,000 from Local Funds General, so that there is 28¼ lakhs of rupees available for works of all kinds in the current year. Civil Buildings, Communications, Public Improvements and Establishments necessarily absorb a large proportion of the total grant; but there remains about 9¾ lakhs to be devoted solely to Irrigation works. Of this large sum, about 8¼ lakhs are given to purely original works, that is, to altogether new Tanks and Channels, or to the improvement, enlargement or extension of those already existing so as to increase their irrigating power. The remaining 1½ lakhs is necessarily absorbed in the maintenance and repair of old works, that is, to keeping them in efficient working order and preventing deterioration.

If you look into details, it will be seen that 200 old tanks are now under restoration or will shortly be so, in other words, are being enlarged or improved; that the irrigation from 25 others is being extended by adding to their catchment areas by means of artificial feeders or by perfecting and extending their distribution channels: that 12 altogether new tanks of large capacity and 10 new anikats are being built: that such important channels as the Rajaparameswari, the Maddur, the Ramasamudram, the Anandur, are being greatly improved and extended: that the Rampur Channel is being entirely remodelled: whilst most important extensions to the Virjanandi, the Hulhalli, the Kalhalli, the Ramaswami, the Mandigherri, and the entire restoration of the old and long abandoned Mahdapur anikat and channels (or as an alternative the extension of the great Sriramadevara Channel) will very shortly be in hand. And the amounts of the estimates as detailed in the Budget, ranging as they do from Rs. 5,000 to 3 lakhs and upwards, will indicate the importance of all these works. This, you will observe, is no insignificant programme as regards irrigation.

Further if we compare what is now being done with what was done during previous years, there is evidence of very marked progress. In 1881—82, the outlay on irrigation works and repairs was but—

In 1882—83	...	...	...	Rs. 3,28,368
In 1883—84	...	...	...	" 2,85,297
In 1884—85	...	...	...	" 3,54,189
In 1885—86	...	...	...	" 3,41,520
In 1886—87	...	...	...	" 4,64,145
In 1887—88	...	...	...	" 5,98,628
				" 7,14,277

and in this year, if we can only get over the labor difficulty which threatens, we hope to spend over 9½ lakhs.

But it may be asked what actual addition to the irrigated area of the Province, will be made by the works executed during the last few years and those now under execution. Inasmuch as during the years immediately succeeding the Rendition, but very few original works were undertaken and as it will take time before definite

results are realized from those of the last few years, it will be best for me to answer this question by giving for each District the approximate quantity of additional water that will be stored in ordinary years when all the tank works begun since April 1885 and those included in our Current Budget are completed.

	Units.
Bangalore District	1,422
Kolar "	6,834
Tumkur "	5,391
Chitaldroog "	2,524
Mysore "	3,364
Shimoga "	1,813
Kadur "	1,555
Hassan "	586
Total.....	23,489

A unit of water being what is required for the irrigation of an acre of land, this represents the addition of over 23,000 acres to the hitherto existing tank irrigated area of the Province.

Taking again our channels, and making a fair allowance for those extensions budgetted for, but which have not yet been worked out in full detail, I find that the following additional acreage will be brought under irrigation in the next five years:—

	Acres.
Ramaswami Channel	3,000
Rajaparameswari "	1,000
Virjanadi "	3,000
Anandur "	1,000
Kalhalli "	1,185
Ramasamudram "	2,474
Mandigherri "	1,500
Rampur "	5,574
Hulhalli "	4,000
Maddur "	900
Mahdapur "	4,600
Sriramadevara "	1,500
Total.....	29,733

I exclude from this list Channels which have been taken up or which it is proposed to take up, but of the revenue results of which there are doubts. I allude to the Talkad Channel, the Saligram and such minor channels as the Solur, the Sowlanga, the Yagati, *Ghirzai, &c., of which it is difficult at present to estimate the ultimate results.

* The anikats across the Veda and the Avati.

I informed you last year that those projects brought to notice by the members of this Assembly were invariably investigated with care, and sanction given in due course to those which on examination proved remunerative or useful. The same course will be pursued hereafter, but as the investigation of the proposals takes up much of the time and attention of our Engineers, I would take the liberty of asking you carefully to weigh the feasibility and utility of every project before submitting it for the consideration of Government.

I have before me now a list of the proposals brought forward by the members of the Assembly of 1887. These embraced 10 tanks, 10 anikats, 6 channel extensions, 8 tank feeders, 7 bridges and 7 roads. I may state at once that it would greatly lighten the work of our Engineers if proposals for local roads, believed to be desirable, were first laid before the Local Fund Boards who are fully empowered to deal with the same and who have the best means of judging of their utility or necessity. The new roads under reference, I believe to be more or less useful, but it is best to leave them to be dealt with by the Boards as funds become available, direct action on our part in regard to them not being desirable. The same remark applies to minor bridges which are chargeable to District Funds and for which State help is not called for. As regards the large and important bridges, those for the Tunga and Bhadra have already been sanctioned, and it is hoped that in the course of

HASSAN DISTRICT.

Messrs. Hassan Krishnappa, Srikanthaiya and Bhimanna spoke on behalf of all the Hassan representatives.

They asked whether a small amount of the Taluk Local Funds might not be spent in the village conservancy: they stated that the villages were in a frightfully filthy state and that the inhabitants were too poor to pay for a conservancy establishment. The Dewan promised to consider the subject. He, however, was sure that a great improvement on the present condition of the village might be effected, if the Patels and Shanbhogs interested themselves in this matter and persuaded each householder to keep his house and backyards as well as the front of his house clean: it would be impossible to do the needful by Government to every village; the Local Funds would be fritted away thereby.

2. The case of Puduvat Funds was then discussed; these Funds lent to people had become barred under the Limitation Act, through carelessness of the officers in charge of the Muzarayi Department; the institutions interested were thereby suffering: it was proposed that the debt might be collected as revenue arrears summarily or that the provisions of the Limitation Act might be amended so as to keep alive causes of action in such cases for a longer period than what it was now.

The Dewan explained that the Funds consisted of two items: 1. Donations promised by devotees monthly or annually: these were continued under the promise for sometime and then dropped through want of means on the part of the donor, or indifference to continue the grant: such cases should be struck off the accounts after due warning to the donors. He did not believe there was much use in compelling charity under the circumstances. The second item was money absolutely given away to the charitable institutions by the donors, from the interest of which the expenses of the periodical ceremonies, &c., prescribed by the donors were to be met. This sum was naturally invested by the temple managers, who were, the Dewan admitted, often guilty of bad investment: several of such sums so lent, had become barred under the Limitation Act. The only remedy was to collect the debtors and persuade them into an amicable settlement. The Dewan was sure that much of this barred debt might be recovered, if the debtors were talked to quietly and told that charities were being abandoned in consequence of their breach of faith. Public opinion, especially in the interior of the country, was very strong against fraudulent debtors who had misappropriated charity funds, and the Dewan trusted that Deputy Commissioners and Amildars would interest themselves in this matter. He could not possibly grant either of the remedies suggested; the debts could not be collected summarily in the face of the provisions of the Limitation Act; nor could he amend the Act in the way recommended.

3. Reduction of retail price of jungle wood was advocated; the price being now prohibitive to the poorer classes. The Inspector General of Forests was asked to make a note of it and enquire.

4. Reduction of sayer on the inferior kind of supari grown in the Maidan Taluks was again requested, and the member was referred to the reply given to Kadur.

5. It was urged that when the Government demand against a Jodi village was in arrears and default was committed of payment of those arrears, it was seldom that all the hissedars were guilty of the default; almost invariably the case was of one or two very minor hissedars holding back their share of Government demand, maliciously inclined against the other shareholders, in the hope of bringing about the sale of the entire village, their own loss being perhaps almost trifling: there were a few cases also in which the defaulting shareholders were pecuniarly unable to meet the demand. In all such cases the members suggested that before attaching and selling the entire village, the shares of the defaulters might be proceeded against first.

The Dewan said that this was the actual procedure now; but added there were cases where it was not possible to adopt it, as for instance, where the shares were not defined, or where the village was undivided into shares, the annual profit

being divided among the share-holders by one of them in charge of the management of the estate. The Dewan added that the Government had no interest and no desire in adopting severe measures against these jodidars and vrittidars; on the contrary, the Government had devised several methods in their favor, calculated to secure them their villages; there was even an arrangement, under which the Government was prepared to take up these estates under its own management on certain conditions till the arrears were fully paid up, and to restore them afterwards to the proprietors: but all in vain: the real difficulty was in the impoverished condition of the proprietors and the comparatively little yield they secured from their respective shares: this often compelling them to leave their estates for distant parts to earn a fair livelihood. All that Government could do, might be demanded and every consideration would be paid to the proposals.

6. The unsafe condition of the "Vimana" on the Belur temple was mentioned with a request that Hindu Engineers might be deputed to examine it and take steps for its repairs. The Secretary, Public Works Department, was asked to make a note of it.

7. The rule prohibiting felling of trees within 50 yards of the margin of jungle streams was recommended to be withdrawn. The Dewan enquiring what was the objection against the rule, it was said that in some of the villages in the Malnad, the rule compelled the raiyats to go to a distance for their wood for agricultural purposes. He did not consider the rule objectionable which was intended for their own good in that it would preserve these perennial springs in the Malnad by good shade throughout the margin of the streams flowing from them.

8. Last year's request that Matti trees might be permitted to be cut by raiyats for agricultural purposes was repeated, and the reply of last year was given, namely, that the tree was too valuable to be given away for such unimportant purposes; and that, under no circumstance should it be given from the State and Reserve Forests; it might be considered by the Forest Department whether this tree in the District Forests might not be given away.

9. Request was made that the Middle School Examination might be dispensed with in the case of applicants for the Pleaders, Test, provided they had passed the Local Test. The Dewan thought it would lower the standard of efficiency of the Pleaders and could not sanction it.

10. Revision of revenue khists from four to six instalments was, as in previous years, again solicited. The Dewan could not understand such a request from the Hassan District where there was no difficulty, generally speaking, in meeting the December instalment. He regretted he could not promise any relief which, he was not sure, was wanted.

11. On behalf of the Belur Planters, the members urged that the Amildar should be invested with powers under the Breach of Contract for Service Act. The Dewan promised consideration.

12. The members said that the raiyats were served with notice every khist they failed to pay up in time and that on each of these notices, the prescribed fee was collected which was hard and which, in some cases, amounted to a larger sum than the actual khist amount. It was begged that only once the fee might be collected. They were told that the present rule could not be relaxed without subjecting the collections to serious delay, and that the rule was a very old one and thoroughly understood.

13. Permission was asked to take up lands for a year (ékasala tenure). The Dewan did not think there was any necessity for it. The members gave no reason for advocating it.

14. Proposal was made that the chattram at Arsikere might be taken up by the Government for management. The Dewan said, a better arrangement would be to continue it under the management of the present committee and aid the institution by remitting the mohatarfa tax now collected by Government on the shops in the chattram. This arrangement, the members were satisfied with.

15. It was contended that the remuneration of the Shanbhogs was low and inadequate to the heavy and responsible duties entrusted to them: it was proposed

that a good breed of cattle constitutes the chief wealth and prop of our agricultural community, they have conceded to some extent the privilege of grazing in reserved forests, at certain seasons and in certain parts, on payment of a small fee.

Connected with forests there are now before Government two questions of some importance. The first of these is the free grant of wood for certain public purposes, and to raiyats for cattle sheds, and, in exempted Taluks, also for building purposes. The second relates to the grant of land on favorable terms, for private plantations. The draft rules, which the Government propose to issue on both these subjects, will be circulated among you, and I shall be glad to receive any practical suggestions you may wish to make regarding them.

I may here add that steps are being taken to organize Khadda operations in July next in the Chamarajnagar Taluk, and from the experience to be thus gained, it is hoped subsequently to extend operations to other suitable localities. A sucessful capture is not only a source of direct gain to Government but a great public boon in localities where so such damage to crops is annually caused by wild elephants.

Education.—The progress of education throughout the year has been most satifactory, and there are, on every side, evidences of an eager desire to take advantage of the means of instruction and that not only in large and populous towns but also in remote and secluded villages. In the last two years the numbers under instruction have increased by over 20 per cent.

Of the Taluk Schools as many as 40 per cent contain each from 100 to 330 pupils. The larger Hobli Schools, in which the attendance approached or exceeded 100, were converted into Taluk Branch Schools, and the levy of fees, which this step involved, has been readily accepted by the people, a decided indication of popular interest in education. To some extent this development of the Vernacular Schools may be attributed to the influence of the Mysore Local Examination, which has thus proved itself well adapted to the needs of the country. The thanks of the Government are due to the numerous private donors who have spontaneously come forward with offers of prizes and gifts for the successful candidates.

The English Middle and High Schools are every year improving in efficiency especially those at District Head-quarters; and higher education is well provided for by the existing Colleges which continue to be maintained at a high standard of efficiency.

The Mysore Scholars going through courses of professional instruction at Poona and Madras have acquitted themselves with credit. This is especially the case with the Engineering Scholars at Poona where two Mysore students took the first and second places respectively at the last L. C. E. Examination and thus become entitled to both the guaranteed appointments in the Bombay Public Works Department. The Mysore Engineering Students at Poona waited upon His Highness the Maharaja when he visited Poona in last February. His Highness was much pleased to hear of their progress and addressed them a few words of gracious encouragement.

Female education continues to gain in popularity and the good influence exerted by the success of Her Highness the Maharani's Girls' School at Mysore has led to the establishment of additional Schools on a similar system in other places. One has been opened at the important town of Melkote and another, founded to commemorate the Jubilee of the QUEEN EMPRESS, has been established at Tumkur.

Desirous that no class should be left behind in the Educational race, the Government of His Highness the Maharaja have, during the past year, instituted a system of special scholarships for the benefit of the Pallegar pensionaries of the State, and for Mahomedans. The former are designed as inducements to the principal Pallegar houses to put the younger members of their families under suitable courses of instruction with a view to qualifying them for the public service. The Mahomedans who have not hitherto come forward, as freely as could be wished, to avail themselves of the benefits of higher education have been given every encouragement by the institution of special scholarships.

In the Department of Archæology, nine Taluks were surveyed during the year and over 1,000 inscriptions added to the collections previously made. Good progress has been made with the volume of Jain inscriptions at Sravanabelagula. (Also more than a half has been printed of the great grammatical work, the Karnataka Sabdanusasanam and its commentaries, as well as of the Vikramarjuna Vijaya of the poet Pampa.)

In order that the results of the present survey may be exhibited in a more tangible form, it is proposed that a portion of the Victoria Jubilee Institute, now under erection at Mysore, should be set apart as a Hall of Inscriptions. Here will be collected, selected specimens, which will be built into the walls, systematically arranged in chronological order. They will thus not only form permanent records, but be available for reference and study as original standard authorities, for the forms and style of the language, at the periods to which they respectively belong, an object of high educational value.

The next subject which demands our attention is the constitution of this Assembly. I drew your attention last year to the rules prescribed on the subject. These rules have been emphasised in the orders of Government issued this year. It was found on an analysis of the classes to which the members of the last year belonged, that the property qualification, on which the selection of the majority of the members should depend, was not sufficiently attended to; and in some of the Districts—Kolar, Mysore, Tumkur and Bangalore—the land-holders were not those who paid the highest assessment. It is the wish of His Highness' Government that the largest land-holders should as a matter of course be invited to this Assembly, excepting of course such of them as happened to labor under any special disqualification, and particular attention was accordingly directed to this point in the nominations made this year. The Deputy Commissioners were also requested to personally attend to the selection of members. I need hardly explain to you that His Highness' object, in insisting upon these conditions, is that the landed interests in the country should be represented in this Assembly by men possessed of high local influence, with devotion to public good, and independence of character. It is His Highness' intention to have a standing list of the highest land-holders in the Province, and, as it is not possible to get all of them to attend these meetings in every year, to make an annual selection from such list either by rotation or some other principle of exclusion.

Gentlemen,—I informed you last year of the visit which His Highness the Maharaja proposed to pay to His Excellency the Viceroy in Calcutta. That visit was paid in January last with the happiest results. His Highness took that opportunity to visit other places of note as well, among others the capitals of two of the principal Rajput States—Jeypur and Jodhpur—and the capital of his friend the Maharaja Gaikwar. He was everywhere received with great consideration and respect and was especially touched by the fraternal regard and affection which marked his treatment at the courts of his brother Native Chiefs.

Gentlemen, in conclusion it only remains for me now to call attention to the Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition, now being held in our midst. His Highness the Maharaja's object in holding it in this City and at this time of the year, has been to afford you special facilities for visiting it. It gives you an opportunity for comparing the agricultural capabilities of your respective Taluks with those of other places, for informing yourselves of the success that has been attained in various parts of the country in improving the breed of cattle and for obtaining some practical idea of the extent to which manual labor can be saved, by the employment of suitable machinery for lifting water for irrigation purposes, and for other operations connected with agriculture. His Highness is deeply sensible of the valuable advantages which the Agricultural, Industrial and Commercial interests of the Province will receive from Exhibitions such as the present, but, their success depends upon your practical appreciation of their usefulness. And it is therefore His Highness' earnest hope that you may be able to derive useful information on the various sections of Agriculture and Industry now represented and that when you return to your homes you will, by your example and influence, contribute to the best of your ability towards the realization of the objects of this Exhibition.

A Kanarese translation was then read by the Chief Secretary and the Meeting was adjourned to the next day (18th October).

THE BANGALORE DISTRICT.

Rate Payers' Association.

Mr. Appajaiya representing the Bangalore Rate Payers' Association reminded the Dewan of the promise made in the last year's Meeting to do away with the loom-tax which pressed hard on the poor weavers, and placed them under great disadvantage. The Deputy Commissioner's opinion was that the tax could not be abandoned without materially decreasing the revenue; he urged that the rates in the Bangalore Municipality were very light, and if they were raised, the loom-tax might be given up. Mr. Appajaiya suggested that a fair tax might be imposed on cloths which would more than make up the deficiency. Mr. Kaloji Rao, one of the cloth merchants, opposed this tax on the reasonable ground that there was no such tax in the Civil and Military Station, and the imposition of such a tax in the City would drive purchasers to the Cantonment shops, to the incalculable loss of the City traders. Mr. Seshappa of the Kolar District proposed a general octroi on cloths throughout the Province.

The Dewan said that the abolition of the loom-tax was in contemplation; but he was afraid of giving it up without going into figures and ascertaining the exact amount of revenue involved; if the amount were prohibitively large, he could not, he regretted to say, remit it without making other adequate provisions.

2. The same member urged upon the consideration of the Dewan, the early disposal of the question of water supply to the Town of Bangalore, where every year the scarcity was being felt more and more. The Dewan explained that there were two schemes before Government, and they were being discussed and that early decision would be arrived at.

3. He advocated the election of Municipal members. All the other members of the Town of Bangalore and many of the members from the Taluks rose *en masse* and deprecated the system of election, pointing to the sad experience of the Civil and Military Station where, they said, the results of election were lamentable: it was mentioned that some of the more respectable residents of the Station abstained from voting and that the scandals of election proceedings were painful, resulting in the election of incompetent and untrustworthy men, without position and real influence in the place: the members begged that the Mysore Darbar would not yield to the demand made principally by the English knowing few graduates of no experience, who do not understand the people and their real wants.

The Dewan observed that the principle involved in the system of election was undoubtedly sound, but that he was satisfied and he was supported in his opinion by all experienced men (official and non-official) that the time was not ripe for the introduction of the system. He thought, however, that an advance should be made on the present system and he had under consideration a scheme, the outline of which he gave as follows:—

(1) The Government to select a certain number of men qualified by character, intelligence, position and property.

(2) Members to the Municipal Board to be elected by the public out of this list of competent men.

The scheme, he said, was not yet ready for announcement.

All, except the member for the Rate Payers' Association admitted this was all that might be done at present. Amongst the members who concurred were several rate payers, and it was evident that Mr. Appajaiya in advocating the election system had not the support of the Association, but was putting forward his own views on the subject.

4. He recommended that plots of land might be given out on easy assessment for plantation purposes. He pointed out that fuel was getting dearer and the jungle supply would one day diminish materially, and it was necessary to make provisions against it by encouraging extensive fuel plantations. The Dewan explained the existing rules and said that no further concession was needed: the assessment on lands fit for plantation purposes was almost in all cases dry land assessment and the rate was exceedingly low.

5. Complaint was made by the same member against the heavy stamp fee on institution of suits: he pleaded that in the original side, Madras High Court, a fee of Rs. 30 only was collected, and that was a very reasonable rate.

The Dewan explained that the fees were imposed under the Court Fees Act prevailing in all British India, that the rate of fees was fixed after very careful and exhaustive enquiry by the British Legislature; and that it was a very reasonable rate. As regards the fee of Rs. 30 collected by the High Court, the Dewan said, he was not sure that would be a remedy to introduce in Mysore as the entire cost of litigation on the original side was decidedly greater than what was in a case governed by the Court Fees Act. The Judges of the Chief Court, Mysore, present, concurred in this view.

6. Constitution of a Sub-Judge's Court at the Head-quarters of each District was advocated. The Dewan said that there were such Courts in every District Head-quarters in the beginning, that sufficient work was not found for them and after that experience and with the full concurrence of the District officers and the Chief Court, the Courts were abolished. The Dewan observed that the member did not point out any disadvantage from the existing arrangement. As regards his suggestion that such Judges might be given magisterial and other work, the Dewan said it was clearly a retrogade step to combine the powers of a Civil Judge with those of a Magistrate or a Revenue officer.

7. The status of the Shanbhog was discussed: it was pleaded that sufficient consideration was not paid to the hereditary nature of the office, that unpunctual remittances of Government money were tried criminally as cases of misappropriation under the Penal Code, and the Shanbhogs punished with heavy rigorous imprisonment: it was urged that the offence, if any, might be noticed by adequate departmental punishment.

The Dewan enquired what particular case was referred to, and Mr. Appajaiya was unable to mention it. He urged the subject as a general question he said.

The Dewan regretted that Mr. Appajaiya had not sufficiently studied the subject. He pointed out that there was not a single Shanbhog who was not guilty of keeping the collection beyond the prescribed time and surely all the Shanbhogs in the country were not prosecuted. Cases that were committed to Criminal Courts were extreme cases of known and well established defalcations which could not adequately be met by departmental punishments: moreover, the remedy against all such risk was in the Shanbhog's own hands. Under the collection rules, the Dewan observed, the Shanbhog was not bound to touch the money which should always be in the possession and custody of the village Patels. Let the Shanbhogs observe this rule and there would be no cases of criminal misappropriation against them

8. The establishment of agricultural banks in convenient centres was advocated as a remedy against the evils of chronic indebtedness of the raiyats who were hopelessly in the grasp of the money lending sahukars: the security for the loan would be the raiyat's land.

The Dewan said the subject was under consideration and required careful legislation.

9. Withdrawal of summary powers from Magistrates was recommended. The Deputy Commissioner of Bangalore thought it worked no harm, but on the contrary saved the Court's time considerably by minimizing the waste of it by inexperienced and incompetent pleaders.

You will see from these figures that the arrears collected amounted to 18 lakhs in 1886—87 and to only about 13 lakhs last year. Out of the difference of five lakhs, nearly three were made good by a better collection of the year's Revenue, thus leaving a net decrease of nearly two lakhs in the actual receipts of the year. Viewed in the light of the above figures, this decrease is no indication of any instability of this Item of Revenue, nor is there any ground for apprehending that the large collections of last year were in any way abnormal. And I may in this connection remind you that there always is a considerable balance remaining uncollected at the end of every year, as the official and agricultural years do not correspond. The actual Land Revenue Demand has stood at over 81 lakhs during the past two years, a fact which we may regard as a sign of the present satisfactory condition of this branch of our Revenue. It has been the result, in a large measure, of extension of cultivation in all parts of the Province, under the influence of improved irrigation on every side, improved communications by means of the Railway and new roads, and the beneficial operation of the Revenue Settlement now so near completion for the whole Province.

Excise.—The next important Item of Revenue is Excise. It shows a marked improvement from a financial point of view. The Receipts (exclusive of the Civil and Military Station) amounted to 15 lakhs, being 3¼ lakhs better than the 11¾ lakhs realized in the previous year.

The Arrack and Toddy contracts were renewed in the beginning of the last year, and advantage was taken of that opportunity to revise the rates of duty and selling price of arrack throughout the Province. The revised scheme is working with success and has contributed partly to the improvement of the Revenue from this source. When in the beginning of 1884—85 a partial revision of duty and price was effected, an increase of nearly one lakh was secured, and three years later, with the completion of the revision for the whole Province, a further increase of Rs. 2,24,000 has resulted. The duty is now made uniform throughout the whole Province, and is fixed at the maximum rate prescribed by the Indian Tariff Act. The retail price is fixed at Rs. 5 per gallon throughout the Province, whereas before the present contract that high rate prevailed only in the Bangalore City and Station, in the Mysore City and in the Towns of Shimoga and Chikmagalur. You will thus see that the selling price of arrack is now pitched much higher than it ever was, but even this has had no effect whatever in reducing consumption. Only a part of the increased Revenue now derived from arrack can be attributed to the higher duty recently adopted. Another part of this increase—though a very insignificant one—may be due to the precautions now taken to prevent adulteration, and to our close watchfulness against illicit manufacture in remote and secluded parts of the Province. But after making every allowance for these causes, there can be no doubt that a considerable part of the increased Revenue is due to a larger consumption. For, let us compare how consumption, as indicated by the Excise Revenue, has increased during the past few years. The Arrack and Toddy contracts were renewed in 1884—85 and again in 1887—88. As compared with 1883—84 the increase under Arrack was 22 per cent in 1884—85 and 74 per cent in 1887—88. Similarly under Toddy the increase was 28 per cent in 1884—85 and 46 per cent in 1887—88. Thus you will see that in 1887—88 the increased consumption of arrack was fully 28 per cent higher than the increased consumption of toddy. This excess in the rate of increase was probably due to the higher duty levied on arrack. Excluding therefore this increase from consideration, we still find a further and considerable increase common to both Arrack and Toddy, which we can only attribute to increased consumption. In my opinion, it is the result of prosperous seasons and good crops, and of the very great rise in the wages of labor which has taken place within the last few years. With extensive Railway Works between Gubbi and Harihar, with the large expansion of the Gold Industry in Kolar, and with Public Works of all kinds employing large numbers of coolies in every part of the Province, the demand for labor has, for some time past, been for in excess of the supply, and led to the importation of a large miscellaneous class of laborers from outside the Province. The high wages earned by laborers of this class, as well as by those of the Province, account, in my opinion, for a great part of the increased consumption of both Arrack and Toddy.

With the increase of the Excise Revenue the Establishment has had to be slightly strengthened, and in the interests of better supervision there has been adopt-

ed a centralized system of manufacture and distribution, which at present is working with marked success, though it appears to labor under the disadvantage of not having a special officer in charge of its administration. There is also another circumstance to which I wish to refer in this connection—namely, the large and unexpected rise in the price of jaggory during the last year. The cause of this rise has not yet been satisfactorily ascertained; but the rise itself is a matter to be contemplated with a satisfaction as it means prosperity to the raiyat, though it may tend to reduce the margin of profit left for the present Arrack contractors. What would greatly benefit the cultivator of sugar cane as well as the manufacturer of arrack is the establishment of suitable sugar factories. With the important Irrigation Works now in course of improvement or construction, greater facilities, I am sure, will come into existence for the establishment of such factories in centres of large sugar-cane growing tracts in parts of the Mysore, Shimoga and Kolar Districts. Such factories, worked in connection with special licensed Distilleries under a system of free distillation, would be the means of establishing a highly remunerative industry in the Province. The stimulus, thereby afforded to the cultivation of so valuable a product as sugar-cane, would add materially to the wealth of the country, and His Highness the Maharaja's Government will be glad to extend to this industry their cordial support and every encouragement in their power.

Returning to the subject of last year's Revenue Receipts, I would add that interest on investments of surplus Revenue amounted to Rs. 1,08,000 and on current deposits in the Madras Bank to Rs. 37,000.

Other items of Revenue call for no special remark, beyond the general one that they have all maintained the prosperous condition attained in the previous year.

Expenditure.—The total expenditure of the past year (exclusive of the State Railway) was Rs. 1,13,98,000 as compared with Rs. 1,09,09,000 in the previous year. Increases have occurred chiefly under the following items :—

	Increase.
Remuneration of Village Servants	21,641
Forests	76,842
Police	43,409
Public Works	3,08,774
Moiety of charges on account of His Highness the Maharaja's North India tour	63,012
Donation to Indo-Colonial Institute in London	50,000
Purchase of Tents	28,415

The first of these items (remuneration of village servants) must keep pace with the progress of our Revenue Settlement. In the Forest Department, the increase has been unavoidable owing to extensive planting and the large areas newly brought under conservancy. Under Police, the increase was due to full effect being given to the re-organization scheme, explained in my address last year. The increase under Public Works was due to several large irrigation and other works being undertaken as will be fully explained hereafter. For many years past, no tents had been supplied to Executive Officers. A new supply was felt to be an urgent want and was partially met by purchases during the past year. The other items appear to require no special comment.

Closing Balance.—Deducting expenditure from Revenue Receipts, the surplus of last year amounted to Rs. 15,77,685. This was reduced to Rs. 14,74,369 by net *payments on account of the State Railway and the last named amount added to the total Revenue surplus on 1st April 1887 (Rs. 50,77,511) gave a closing balance of Rs. 65,51,880 on 31st March 1888.

	Rs.
*Payments ...	3,81,566
Receipts ...	2,78,250
Net payments	1,03,316

Budget Estimates.—The revised Budget Estimates of Receipts (including the State Railway) amount to Rs. 1,26,93,471 against an actual collection of Rs. 1,32,54,526 in the past year. For this year, the estimate under Land Revenue is only 80¾ lakhs, though the actual Receipts amounted to over 85 lakhs last year; but the estimate is based upon the Land Revenue Demand (exclusive of arrears) which, as already stated, was about 81 lakhs. Under Forests an increase of over ¾ lakh is expected, chiefly from sandalwood.

The revised Budget provides for a total expenditure of Rs. 1,25,05,047, being Rs. 7,24,890 more than the actual expenditure of the past year. The principal heads under which increased provision is made are :—

Rs.

4,20,000. Under "Public Works," the grant for the year having had to be fixed at 20 lakhs (against 16½ lakhs in 1887—88) owing to several large Irrigation works and two important bridges.

2,19,000. Under "Railway," as the extension to Harihar is fast approaching completion and provision has to be made for payment of interest on capital outlay.

75,000. Under "Forests," owing to extension of plantations and to increased felling operations required to meet the greater demand for timber of all kinds and for sandalwood.

and 41,000. Under "Medical," owing to the large number of new Dispensaris now being opened in every part of the Province, the object being that no Taluk Head-quarters should be without a Dispensary.

The Mysore State Railway.—Before concluding my remarks on the subject of Finance, you will naturally expect me to give you some definite information regarding the arrangement under which the State Railway is being managed and extended by the Southern Mahratta Company. A copy of the contract finally concluded with the Company having recently been received from the British Government, I shall first explain briefly the terms of this contract, and then touch upon its bearing on the finances of the State.

The contract has been concluded by the Secretary of State for India, acting on behalf of the Maharaja of Mysore, and it is to be in force for a period of 46 years from the 30th June 1886 to 30th June 1932. Under the guarantee of the Secretary of State, the Company have raised a loan of £1,200,000, and the proceeds of this loan (£1,224,000, including a premium of 2 per cent) has been paid by the Company to the credit of the Secretary of State. The sum thus paid amounts in Indian currency to Rs. 1,63,82,801, and is intended to be devoted towards the capital cost of the Mysore State Railway, that is to say:—

Rs.

68,60,503 towards payment to the Mysore State of the actual capital outlay on the Mysore-Gubbi line up to 30th June 1886, and—

95,22,293 (or such ~~portion of it as may be absolutely~~ necessary) towards expenditure upon the construction and equipment by the Company of the extension from Gubbi to Harihar.

The entire Railway from Mysore to Harihar is to be worked by the Company as a separate system, distinct from their Railways in British India, and the cost of management is to be apportioned between the two systems in the proportion of their respective gross earnings. Out of the net earnings of the Mysore system, the Company are to retain for themselves a quarter share, the remaining three quarters being handed over to the Mysore State. The loan of £1,200,000 raised by the Company is not redeemable before 1st March 1936, but is redeemable after that date upon a year's previous notice being given. Till such redemption, interest upon it at 4 per cent per annum is payable half yearly in London on 1st April and 1st October in each year. As the loan has been taken up upon the guarantee of the Secretary of State, acting on behalf of the Mysore State, there attaches to the latter the obligation to pay interest on it till its redemption. But you will, at the same time, note that there is no obligation whatever, either on the part of the Mysore State or the British Government, to redeem the loan at any time though it is

optional to the British Government, and, through the British Government, to the Mysore State to redeem it at any time after 1st March 1936. Under the terms of the contract, the management of the Railway will, on 1st July 1932, be surrendered by the Company to the Secretary of State, acting on behalf of the Mysore State, and from the date of such surrender, the State will be entitled to work it in any way it deems proper. You will thus see that the arrangement in regard to our State Railway is divisible into two distinct parts which have no necessary connection with each other. First, the State has the obligation to pay interest on the loan and the option to redeem it in due time, and secondly, the Company has the obligation of constructing and managing the Railway for a specified term of years and the right to receive as remuneration for such service a quarter of net earnings during such term. I am sure you will agree with me in thinking that this remuneration to the Company for 46 years is not too great a price to pay for the construction of an important Railway with the aid of foreign capital.

The sum of Rs. 68,60,508 being capital cost of the Mysore-Gubbi line up to 30th June 1886, has been paid to the credit of Mysore, out of the capital raised by the Company; and the same has been applied towards the partial liquidation of the famine debt due to British Government, with effect from 1st July 1886. Since then, the two payments of 4 lakhs each have been made by the State towards this debt, which will be completely liquidated by the payment of Rs. 1,99,404 in December next, when the annual payments of 4 lakhs hitherto made on this account will determine.

It is however our intention to continue similar payments and to set them apart towards a special fund for the redemption as well of the Local Railway Debenture Loan of 20 lakhs as of the English Debenture Loan of £1,200,000.

In addition to these payments of 4 lakhs per annum, we have to meet the guaranteed interest on the last named loan. During construction, however, we are only called upon to pay interest upon capital actually spent from month to month. Eventually, we have to pay interest on the whole loan amounting to £48,000 per annum, which, according to average rates of exchange, will probably be about $5\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs of rupees. When the working of the Railway is fully developed—as I hope it will be within the next few years—about $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs per annum may be expected as $\frac{3}{4}$ths of net Railway earnings due to the State, and deducting this amount from interest payable by the State, the net annual payment to be made to the Company, under the contract, would be about $1\frac{1}{4}$ lakh per annum. Much larger net annual payments varying from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 lakhs will, however, be necessary in the next five or six years, during the infancy of the Railway when net earnings would be necessarily low, and I have only to add that the Government have made an accurate forecast of the various liabilities above explained, and expect to be able to meet them in due time.

As regards actual construction of the extension from Gubbi to Harihar, you will be glad to learn that the works are all being pushed on with vigor by the Company Progress, however, has not been as good as was anticipated between Gubbi and Birur owing to the insufficiency of local labor, and this portion of the line will probably not be opened for traffic until the next official year. Works along the northern sections are, it is understood, rapidly approaching completion and it is believed that from Harihar to Kadur, the line will be opened for traffic during the course of the next few months. I am unable to state yet what the total cost of the new line will be, but the Government of India have issued strict orders that a limit of 80 lakhs should not be exceeded between Gubbi and Harihar and we may therefore assume that the total cost of the Railway from Mysore to Harihar will not exceed *Rs. 1,48,60,000, especially as it has been decided to relieve Mysore of a moiety of the cost of the Tungabhadra bridge at Harihar, which it was at first proposed to debit against the Harihar extension.

Rs.
*68,60,508 already spent by Mysore on Mysore to Gubbi,
80,00,000 now being spent by Company on Gubbi to Harihar.

[illegible] to [illegible]
[illegible] already stat[illegible]
is expected, [illegible]

8. Complaint was made against the settlement rates of assessment in the Chikballapur Taluk and against the withdrawal of the rules which granted half remission of wet assessment when the lands were not irrigated from want of water The Dewan declined to revise the rates and reminded them of his decision after full discussion with them at the time the rates were announced. He added that he saw no reason to alter that decision and that the rates were just and equitable. As regards the withdrawal of the remission rules, he invited their attention to the Government order on the subject which put forth the grounds on which the rules were cancelled.

9. The members submitted that sub-division of large dry survey numbers was not invariably granted. The Deputy Commissioner of Kolar replied that this was being done wherever necessary and that applications were never rejected, unless there were valid reasons against them. The Dewan referred the members to the rules on the subject which made ample provisions and directed them to bring up special cases to Government for decision, if the rules were not acted up to.

10. The charge for cattle grazing, at so much for each head of cattle, in State Forests was considered hard. The members were reminded of the ample grazing which the Survey Settlement granted to the villages outside the Reserved Forests. In years of drought, the cattle were let into the State Forests which was in itself a very great concession.

11. The sales of immovable property were not held where the property was situated, which often inflicted loss on the decree-debtor. It was recommended that they might be held on or near the property. The Dewan said that this was always done if the parties interested applied for it.

12. Demarcation of State, District and Village Forests were not complete, and the raiyats ignorant of the boundaries, often through ignorance, cut wood within the reserves and were punished for so cutting. The members urged the early demarcation of these forests. The Inspector General of Forests was directed to take early steps towards completion of this work.

13.— It was complained that the local authorities raised various and vexatious objections against raiyats getting free of charge and without license, thorns and brambles for fencing, &c. The Deputy Commissioner of Kolar said that he had received no complaint on the subject and the members did not specify any particular case. The Dewan said that the rules were clear and granted the raiyats the plants free of charge.

14. Stamp vendors, it was said, often failed to keep a sufficient quantity of stamps of small value, and purchasers were thereby compelled to buy stamps of higher value; measures should be adopted to prevent this irregularity. The Dewan directed the Deputy Commissioner to take serious notice of such delinquent Stamp vendors.

15. Prohibition against slaughter of cows was asked for. The Dewan said the subject was not an easy one for solution and would consider it.

16. Construction of village roads joining villages with the main road was advocated and the members were told that this was within the jurisdiction of Local Boards and application should be made to the Deputy Commissioner and the Board.

17. Government aid was asked in the way of free grant of wood for the construction of village chavadis. The Dewan said it would be readily given.

18. Suggestion was made that Police Constables and Officers should be men having local knowledge, and the enlistment should be of persons residing in the taluk and villages where they might be employed. The Inspector General of Police said that this was being done as far as possible.

19. Stone bandhs *versus* earth bandhs. This was again brought up and the Dewan declined to discuss the subject which had been thoroughly examined and decided.

20. It was brought to notice that several temples, chattrams and matts and masjids were by their owners neglected to go to ruin and they objected to others repairing and restoring them. The members urged that Government should give the owners certain time to restore them ; and if the restoration was not done within the time granted, outsiders should be allowed to take up the work if they came forward to undertake it. The members were told that Government could not interfere with rights of private property.

21. Genuine coins less in weight than the standard weight should be received as legal tender ; the members urged the coins were genuine and the owner was not responsible for the loss in weight. The Dewan regretted he could not alter the well-known rule on the subject.

22. The views of the Government and their decision on the subject of the Kodagi Inams were explained to the Bangalore members, and the Kolar members were referred to that explanation.

23. Remission of a fourth assessment on lands irrigated by private wells was withdrawn in the Survey Settlement ; its revival was asked for. The Dewan promised to look into the question.

24. The Government were asked to exempt leases from registration under clause D, Section 17 of the Registration Act, leases running for five years with an annual rental of Rs. 50 and less than Rs. 50. The Dewan saw no reason for granting this exemption and said that registration of leases was an important step in advance.

25. Withdrawl of the Arms Act was recommended on the ground that the payment of stamp fees for licenses was a heavy burden. The reply given to Hutchegaugda of Mudgere was repeated.

26. The decision of Government on the subject of raiyats taking Hongé leaves was asked for. The members were referred to the Dewan's Notes, and the Deputy Commissioner was asked to give effect to the views of Government conveyed in the said Notes.

27. Repairs and restoration of certain water suppply channels to some of the tanks of the Chikballapur Taluk were recommended and the Secretary, Public Works Department, was asked to make a note of them for early consideration.

28. The Chikballapur English school might, it was requested, be raised to the Matriculation standard, as the town was an important Head-quarters of a Taluk and there were many students anxious to continue the English studies beyond the Middle School standard. The application was referred to the Secretary, Educational Department, for consideration.

29. Transfer of Rayalpad and Nelavant Hoblis from the Chintamani Taluk to the Srinivaspur Sub-Division and location of a Treasury at Srinivaspur were suggested on the grounds put forth in previous years' discussions. The Dewan promised to reconsider the proposals for transfer of the Hoblis; he could not promise the location of a Treasury at Srinivaspur.

30. Line of Railway from Chikballapur to Bangalore was suggested.

31 Complaint was made against the heavy miras which the rules prescribed for the remuneration of Totis and other minor village servants. The members were referred to replies given in previous years. The Dewan added that the miras was an equitable arrangement.

TUMKUR DISTRICT.

The members of the Tumkur District represented that they had no subject to discuss and no grievance, and congratulated the administration on its success.

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the next few years, bridges across the Cauvery at Yedatore and the Hemavati at Holé-Narsipur will be taken in hand. A bridge across the Cauvery at Bannur will not be required for many years to come, and a bridge at Yedatore will supersede the necessity for bridges at Ramanathpur, Tippur or Hampapur. Of the irrigation works proposed, several have been found either impracticable or unremunerative. Those that promise well are already in hand or will be so ere long. A list, with remarks regarding each work brought forward in this Assembly last year, is now available for any member wishing to examine it.

Tank Maintenance.—In my remarks of last year, I alluded at some length to the scheme inaugurated in 1886—87 and now being gradually worked up which aimed at the enforcement of the ancient custom of maintaining our tanks by the agency of the raiyats themselves. Towards the close of the year it unfortunately happened that opposition to this measure in some Districts, instigated by a few disaffected or ill-advised persons, became so keen that it was found advisable to enjoin on the District Officers concerned absolute abstention from pressure of any sort. Conciliatory means were to be adopted to bring over the raiyats to cordial co-operation, to make them understand that the measure, a mild one in reality and one always recognized, was solely intended for their own ultimate benefit—that sooner or later without their direct assistance in maintaining the earthwork their tanks must be ruined. In some parts, I regret to say, this has not yet had the desired effect, but in other places a most promising measure of success has been attained. I may quote as examples the Dodballapur and Nelamangala Taluks where a considerable quantity of earthwork has already been carried out by the raiyats, Government contributing masonry and stone work. In the Shimoga and Shikarpur Taluks of the Shimoga District, the raiyats have evinced a most praiseworthy spirit of co-operation, and many tanks have been put in order, which, but for such co-operation, must have remained in disrepair for many years to come; whilst in some Taluks in Mysore, Hassan and Chitaldroog there are many tanks now under repair by the villagers themselves. I hold that, with tact and perseverance on the part of all Revenue Officials, and with care in selecting such tanks only as directly benefit the cultivating raiyat, the example already set in some Taluks of the Province will soon be followed throughout all the Districts. I cannot too forcibly impress on you, as representatives of the people, the necessity that exists for the raiyats assisting Government in this matter, not only by fully maintaining those tanks already restored, but by contributing their labor to the restoration of the vast number of tanks all over the country now in disrepair and which it is absolutely impossible for Government to deal with without such assistance.

As regards roads, bridges and works of public improvement, I need only say this year, that the same policy of advance as was indicated last year is being steadily pursued. We are bridging over unbridged rivers, improving our old lines of communications, and extending new lines according to requirements. Our grants towards these works are so liberal, that there is every hope that before many years elapse, Mysore will be in regard to roads and bridges, on a par with the foremost Provinces of India.

I now come to make a few remarks upon some of the special questions referred to in last year's address.

Kodagi Inams.—The revision of the Kodagi Settlement, in which the people of the Kolar District take so keen an interest, is under progress in accordance with the promise given last year. In response to the Inam Superintendent's Notification, 261 applications for revision have been received. The principles laid down for the conduct of the revision are:—

1stly, That no Kodagi Inams shall be treated as granted only for "up-keep" unless this is most clearly and directly proved;

and 2ndly, That the general rule of interpretation shall be that all Kodagi Inams were granted for *construction and up-keep* and not for *mere up-keep.*

You will thus see that a settlement based on these instructions will bring several Inams now settled under Class II, under the more liberal Class I; and the Government of His Highness the Maharaja are disposed to think that this arrangement

would exhaust all reasonable complaints or nearly all. It is believed that, in the large majority of cases, the Inamdars would prefer the payment of ¼ or ½ quit-rent to the risk of entire forfeiture in cases of failure to keep up the tank to the requisite Government standard; for, the revival of the Kodagi tenure would, as a matter of course, be burdened with that just condition. Colonel Grant has, however, been asked to make a note of all applicants who may desire the restoration of the Kodagi tenure with the old liabilities and submit the cases for further consideration and decision.

I need hardly mention that Inamdars who have spent money on their tanks relying upon the orders issued in 1881 will receive just compensation at the resettlement.

Inamdars' Toddy Revenue.—The subject of Inamdars' claims to the Toddy Revenue was discussed last year. The set of draft rules, on which I then invited you to express your views, have not yet been adopted by Government. The information received from the Districts regarding the amount of revenue involved being incomplete, it has been deemed expedient to defer action in regard to the rules in question, till the expiry of the present Toddy Contracts, that is till 31st March 1890. In the meantime the existing rules will continue to be in force and will be duly carried out by the District Officers. This decision would be just to all interests concerned. The present contractors took up their contracts on the distinct understanding that the existing rules would remain unaltered during the term of their contract. What particular Inamdars are entitled to the Toddy Revenue was a question that was settled at the late Inam Settlement, and the decision then recorded will of course be strictly adhered to, and the claims of Inamdars entitled to the Toddy Revenue under that settlement will be adjudicated upon and duly enforced in accordance with the Orders of 1873, 1877 and 1881 and para V of the Conditions attached to the present Toddy Contracts.

Forests.—The next subject to which I would request your attention is the Forest Department which has continued to yield satisfactory results, both financially and otherwise.

During the past year, several State Forests were extended and a large number of valuable jungle tracts in varying stages of denudation, were brought under proper conservancy.

Fuel supply threatens to be the great problem of the future. The Railway extension to Harihar, the advancing Kolar Gold Industry, the Cotton and Wollen Mills at Bangalore and a rising population with expanding cultivation tend to enormously increase the demand for fuel and to diminish the source of its supply. There has thus arisen the necessity for carefully conserving as large and as many jungle tracts as possible, more especially those in the vicinity of the Railway.

The spontaneous growth of timber in forests and of fuel in reserved jungle tracts, is being supplemented by plantations on an extensive scale, and the Plantation Branch of the Forest Department planted during the past year about 4 lakhs of timber trees and 4½ lakhs fuel trees, on an aggregate area of 1,481 acres or nearly 2⅓ square miles.

Besides these regular plantations by Departmental agency, plantations of timber, fuel, fruit and sandal trees, have been started in several Taluks under the direction of the Revenue Officers: and the cheap and efficient system of sowing the seed broadcast upon waste land after a thorough ploughing, has, wherever earnestly tried, yielded striking results.

Sandalwood has, as usual, continued to yield a large portion of the Forest Revenue. Every attention is being given to sustain a perpetual supply of this valuable wood. Large tracts, with a good growth of sandalwood, have been formed into sandal preserves and have been brought under a system of protection, while the artificial reproduction of the tree is being carried out on a definite system.

In thus conserving forests and sandalwood tracts, the Government has not been unmindful of the necessities of the raiyats in the matter of grazing and, well aware

that they should have at least Rs. 100 a year. The Dewan contrasted the remuneration sanctioned under the Survey, with what was their lot under the old system when the pay attached to the office was trifling and the collection of miras was uncertain. He did not think there was any reasonable ground for grievance.

16. Increased supply of water for lands under the Krishnarajkatte, in the hot season, was demanded. The Dewan explained that Government had no wish whatever to keep water from raiyats to their detriment, if there was water to be given. The limit on the supply was solely dependent on the quantity at Government command; all holdings which from long uninterrupted usage, were annually receiving hot weather supply, should first be considered in the distribution: there was this difficulty, and he assured the members there was no other, and it was impossible to supply all holdings with water in the hot season.

17. The members said that the present tank policy was defective and that Government should repair and bring tanks up to standard and hand them over to the raiyats who would be bound to keep them up in order thenceforward.

The Dewan observed that he had explained the Government policy quite sufficiently and thought it waste of time to go over the whole ground. He would briefly state once again that Government, under no circumstance, would compel raiyats to do earthwork; they might do so if they wished, and the Government would at once do the stone and sluice work and speedily put the tank in order: tanks brought to standard, whether they were tanks to which the raiyats had done earthwork or the Government had done it, should always be kept up to standard by the raiyats: if they failed, the Government would undoubtedly compel them to bring it back to the standard order or levy contribution from them for getting the work done. The Dewan added that neglect on the part of the Government in past years to enforce this very equitable order was the cause of several magnificent tanks in the country being now in a dilapidated condition.

18. Munsiff of Hassan was now Treasury officer and Magistrate as well: the members wished that he might be relieved of these duties, as his time was completely taken up by his civil work and he could not do Treasury and Magisterial work with that leisure and attention which were necessary. The Dewan promised to enquire into this matter and relieve the Munisiff of the extra work if the enquiry proved such a step necessary in the interests of the Government and of the public.

19. Mr. Graham Anderson read an address, which will be found in the appendix. The three points discussed were—

1. Provision of the Coffee Stealing Act under which the Magistrates might compel production of accounts of Coffee Planters;
2. Inadequate punishment under the Cattle Trespass Act;
3. Breach of Contract Act as interpreted by the High Court in some of the recent rulings.

The Dewan promised to consider them attentively.

CHITALDROOG DISTRICT.

Messrs. Ramanna and Srinivasa Doss, complained against the fuel tax, a repetition of Kadur Srinivasa Rao's grievance. The Dewan referred the members to the reply already given; that to the raiyats, the fuel was freely given, and that to traders, it was legitimately taxed; he pointed out that the arrangement was absolutely necessary for the barren and open country like the Chitaldroog District, where the supply of fuel was exceedingly limited.

2. The members suggested that jurisdiction over insolvency cases should be extended to the Munsiffs. The Saukars of this District and other Districts strongly protested against the suggestion, urging that the provisions in favor of insolvency were already working great mischief and demoralizing debtors, that such provisions were unknown under the Native Administration and also in the early

days of the Commission, that their abolition it was which the members would like to urge upon the Government and that further facilities in favor of insolvents were not wanted at all.

The Dewan said the Act did not empower Munsiffs, and he was not prepared to extend jurisdiction in the way suggested, which would involve unnecessary alteration of the existing law.

3. The same members requested as those from Kadur did, that the agricultural Inspectors might be directed to educate the raiyats in the science of agriculture. They were referred to the reply given to Kadur.

4. Technical education was advocated in a small scale in the High Schools of District Head-quarters. The Dewan promised to consider. The members said a small beginning might be made by teaching carpentry and woollen manufacture to the students.

5. Complaint was made that considerable delay was experienced in getting permission from Amildars for cutting date leaves; the Shekdars, it was suggested, might be given the power of issuing such licenses. The Dewan said that he was not certain that Shekdars would exercise the power with discretion and impartiality. He would not alter the existing rule. He pointed out that free grant of date leaves was only a privilege conceded graciously by the Government to the very poorest classes who dealt in date mats, &c., and that facilities for the abuse of the privilege should be avoided as much as possible.

6. The members drew the attention of the Dewan to the fact that vested rights of Patels and Shanbhogs had been tampered with at the Survey settlement and by some of the orders of the late Chief Commissioner, in that the Survey Department very often registered only one of the hakdars of the office as officiator entirely ignoring immemorial claims of the hissedar, and that the Chief Commissioner's orders distinctly laid down that there ought not to be more than one Patel to each village.

The Dewan admitted the grievance was real and that his attention had been drawn to it. He said he was preparing a scheme, under which, all the rightful hissedars would take possession of the office by rotation. The members thanked the Dewan for this consideration towards the ancient rights of these officers.

7. The prohibition against the collection of Hongé leaves for manure, under the recent rules was, it was urged, a great hardship; the members begged that it might be removed.

The Dewan explained that the rules were found necessary to protect hongé groves which were, it was reported to him, being damaged recklessly to the injury of the trees themselves: all such restrictions, he pointed out, were due to the action of the raiyats themselves, and in the long run, for their own benefit, and that he would not have found it necessary to interfere and lay down restrictions if the raiyats, in consultation of their own interests, had husbanded their resources and used them with economy. He said, however, he would remove the restriction in favor of *bonâ fide* raiyats. The Inamdars were, he said, not entitled to leaves from Government trees: they might buy them.

8. The members recommended the establishment of an English School at Challakere: they were referred to the Deputy Commissioner, who would submit to Government the necessary proposals. The Dewan pressed upon them the more important subject of Vernacular education.

9. Mr. Nanjundaiya of Davangere said that lands under breached tanks were assessed Bengar or half wet rate which was high, and recommended that dry rates might be collected on such lands. The Dewan replied that Bengar rates in such cases was the immemorial settlement well known to all the raiyats and thoroughly acquiesced in by them; that reduction of the rates, as recommended, was sacrifice of Government revenue, and that between such lands and ordinary dry lands, there was no comparison in the value of soil or the quantity and value of the crop, and that the remission proposed would be quite unreasonable.

10. He discussed again the necessity and importance of issuing separate pattas to every Hissedar of a Khate, pointing out that the Hissedars were now at the mercy of the Khatedars. The Dewan said that the receipt book given to the Khatedars would be altered, so as to remove the hardship as much as possible. He explained there ought to be a limit to the recognition of Hissedars in Government accounts, as it would be impossible to register all names, as land might be sub-divided under the Hindu Law of partition. No Government or Administration ever had attempted to do this , and it would be a hopeless task to undertake it.

11. He brought to notice a local nuisance which was that dry lands Nos. 98 and 97, situated on the way to the river Tungabhadra, have been given out for cultivation, and that the occupants obstructed people passing over them to the river for bathing, &c., purposes. He recommended that the Khate might be cancelled in the interests of the public. The subject was referred to the Deputy Commissioner for enquiry and disposal.

12. He recommended that Taluk Sheristadars might be invested with Magisterial powers as in the British Districts, an arrangement which would enable Amildars to move about freely and often in the interior of their Taluks; as in their absence the Sheristadars might dispose of criminal cases. The Dewan said the Magisterial work in Taluks, as a rule, was not heavy, and where the file might be found heavy, the proposal would be considered.

13. The last subject was the separation of Police from Magisterial functions in the Taluks, and Mr. Nanjundaiya was referred to the reply to Bangalore.

SHIMOGA DISTRICT.

Objection was taken to the rule that all cultivation within ten feet from the toe of tank and channel bunds should be cancelled: the representatives recognized the necessity for such a rule in cases of fresh applications under tanks and channels: they urged that the strict enforcement of the rule in the existing holdings would prove a great hardship, containing, as they do, valuable trees, in garden holdings especially.

The Dewan observed that the rule was not a recent one, that cultivation within the prohibited area was due to encroachments connived at or not noticed through carelessness, by the village and Taluk officials and that it would be strictly legal to enforce the rule in all cases: but he would limit its operation in due consideration of the old holdings and declare that the rule might not be enforced in cases of kayambagayat ; and that where the enforcement might be absolutely called for in such cases also, for the safety of the tank and channel bunds, the extent of the land excluded from cultivation might be purchased by Government at reasonable rates. The representatives were satisfied with this settlement.

2. It was put forward as a grievance that mohatarfa house tax should be collected from raiyats who lived in villages where they owned no land, but held land in the adjoining villages. Remission of the tax was prayed for in such cases.

In reply, it was observed that the rule which was an indulgence and privilege to the raiyat was that, if he held land in a village, he might be exempted from house tax : that it was inconvenient to extend it to all the cases mentioned by the representatives. A raiyat might have land in one taluk, or in one District and live in another taluk or District ; and yet, he might under the view taken by the representatives, claim exemption. The Dewan, however, was quite aware of some really hard cases where a raiyat might not find building site in the village his land might be situated in ; or it might be a bechirakh village ; in such cases the raiyat's house in the adjoining village might justly be entitled to remission: such cases could be brought up before Jamabandi officers, who should grant the remission. The representatives said that the concession met the objection.

3. Exemption of applications for building sites from Court Fee stamps was prayed for: the members explained that the applicants in several instances failed to secure the sites in the public sale and that they lost the stamps.

The Dewan noticed that the fee was imposed under the Court Fees Act, Schedule II, No. 1, B, and that though the Government had the power of exempting any documents from stamp, it could not sacrifice its legitimate revenue; it might, however, be ruled that when applicants failed to get the land at the sale, they would be paid back the amount of stamp affixed to their applications: and that the purchasers might be warned of their liability to pay this amount in addition to their highest bid amount. The representatives concurred.

4. Their next prayer was against enhancement of Government assessment on kharab dry lands which the raiyats might, at their own cost, convert into wet or garden lands.

The Dewan said that it was an impossible request urged without adequate knowledge of the tenures prevailing in the Province, and as regards gardens especially it was simply hopeless: there was always, he said, a special garden rate, no matter how created: the real question involved was whether raiyats' improvements should be taxed or not: a negative answer would affect the land revenue as almost all the gardens in the State, with rare exceptions, were due to raiyats' improvements and to limit the privilege against enhancements to cases of new applications would be fairly considered inequitable by the old garden holders whose cases were similar: under the oldest Native administrations, in fact as far as history goes, the special garden rates prevailed and were decidedly higher than the average rates now collected; again, such a concession as that prayed for in behalf of fresh applications might, it was pointed out, tend to the neglect of the old gardens assessed as they were, under the special rates. He recognized, however, the fairness of the claim, and to a certain extent, he was prepared to meet it in consideration of the great cost involved in the conversion of dry into garden or wet. He would grant them for a certain number of years, remission of all assessment on such kharab dry lands, and grant them a shraya tenure (Progressive rent) for another term of years reaching the prevailing garden or wet assessment at the end of the term. He regretted that it was impossible to grant them greater inducements. He also observed that after all the question was not quite so important practically, as such kharab dry lands capable of such valuable conversion were very rare.

5. The representatives of the Tirthahalli Taluk submitted for the favorable consideration of Government the advisability of giving Amildars jurisdiction in "géni" suits where the "géni" or rent claimed was of the two previous years only: they urged that the Amildars originally had this jurisdiction and that it had not been by due notification of Government withdrawn from them: there were, however, certain Government decisions in individual cases, they said, discouraging the exercise of this power by Amildars, and the latter accordingly hesitated receiving such suits.

They were told in reply that, in such suits the Revenue and the Civil Courts had concurrent jurisdiction and that no fresh order was necessary: they were also informed of the early introduction of the Revenue Code which would clear all ambiguous points.

6. The next subject had reference to the rights of "Mulagénidars": under the Survey Settlement the assessment on lands leased out under this peculiar tenure had been, the representatives said, enhanced, while the amount of rent payable to the land-lord by the lessees remained as of old, in some cases equal to or even below the Government demand: they admitted that the Revenue Code had adequately provided for such cases, but complained that pending the introduction of the Code, the Limitation Act was affecting their rights to sue for enhancement of rent, and begged that the Limitation Act might be ruled inoperative in such cases.

The Dewan regretted that he could not do so, but would see what possible remedy could be applied to the grievance. He hoped the Code (which was pending before the Government of India) would be early introduced.

7. The Shikarpur members requested that a Sub-Inspector might be located at Siralkoppa ; it was an important station with a brisk and rising trade and required higher police supervision than it commanded at present.

The subject was referred to the Inspector General of Police for early consideration and submission of proposals for Government orders.

8. All the Malnad members, the chief supari (arecanut) growers of the Province congratulated the State on its flourishing financial condition and begged that His Highness might be graciously pleased to take into his consideration, the very hard case of the supari growers who were subjected to a land tax on the gardens and a sayer on the produce of the gardens, and that the double tax which was abandoned in the adjoining British Taluks might be justly remitted in their favor as well: they reminded the Dewan that they had urged this humble prayer once before on the attention of Government, but were told that the State finance did not justify discussion of the subject : they repeated the prayer now, as that objection no longer existed and that the Imperial debt, which was admittedly a heavy drag on the resources of the country, had all been paid up.

The Dewan pointed out that the revenue from supari sayer was annually Rs. 4,00,156 which the Government could not afford to give up without full consideration. The financial condition of the State, he admitted, was very promising, but this could not always be relied upon with the present knowledge of the country which depends almost entirely upon timely and adequate rain-fall. He observed that even the present year, in the beginning of the cultivation season, there was considerable anxiety and that famines partial or whole, appeared to him almost periodical visitations, against which it was the first duty of Government to provide. He promised, however, that the Darbar would consider the question fully : for, hasty remission of old and well known taxes and subsequent revival of them are proceedings unbecoming the dignity of a State. He also reminded them of an important fact connected with the supari trade : it was a monopoly of the Mysore traders and they might be described as almost the masters of the market in Mysore and outside ; it is they that fix the market price of each year and the price of the article was exceedingly favorable to both the parties concerned, the growers and traders : so that the small tax of annas 12 for each maund was not really heavy.

9. The Forest rule, the members said, which directed raiyats not to cut such branches of jungle trees as were thicker than an inch in girth, for their soppu (leaf manure) was very hard, 1stly, because the raiyats very often, through ignorance, cut slightly thicker branches and they were liable to prosecution ; secondly, that the rule was not necessary, as what was removed from the trees were leaves only.

The Deputy Commissioner of Shimoga, who was present, said that he was not aware of the particular rule and that perhaps it might be modified in consultation with the Inspector General of Forests.

The Dewan said that the entire question would early be solved by the demarcation of Soppinabetta and the setting aside to each village in the Malnad, a certain tract for manure which the village community might conserve as they thought best and that Government interference would cease. He warned them, however, that after this arrangement, the raiyats would be excluded from the Government jungles. The representatives said this was only equitable.

10. The Amildars, it was asked, should be authorized to issue licenses to raiyats for cutting and removing wood from jungles, and not the Forest Department which was the existing procedure involving great delay and inconvenience to applicants.

The Deputy Commissioners of all the Districts and the Inspector General of Forests submitted to the Dewan that the complaint was reasonable and might be favorably considered. The Dewan said that the Amildars might be invested with the power, but directed that the Forest Department should submit to him a report upon the results of this change of procedure at the end of a year.

11. In accordance with the rule in Her Majesty's Territories, the members wished that fees might be levied on the number of trees and not on the quantity. They were told that the subject was under consideration and probably the request might be acceded to.

12. Regarding trees that should be felled for fuel, the Inspector General of Forests, it was urged, had published a list enumerating 33 kinds of trees, all conserved against felling and the raiyats were permitted to fell trees other than these. It was submitted by the members that the jungles contained no other trees and that the restriction practically closed all the jungles.

The Dewan referred the subject for early consideration and decision of the Inspector General of Forests.

13. It was complained that raiyats were compelled to obtain licenses for cutting wood for agricultural implements, and that this was a nuisance in the cultivation season especially, when through breakage or other damage an implement, such as a plough, might have to be substituted : the raiyats were not at liberty to go at once into the next jungle and cut the necessary wood : the privilege was an old one and was not abused and ought therefore be revived.

It was observed to them in reply, that the question under what circumstances the raiyats might fell trees without license, was under consideration, and that the old orders (of the Chief Commissioner) were ambiguous and conflicting and would be amended so as to remove all real grievances. As regards the complaint that raiyats were forced to obtain licenses for collecting fuel and charcoal in the jungles, the Dewan said that there was no rule to that effect and if such cases had occurred, the members might take them up before the Taluk and District Officers for enquiry and due disposal.

14. The Forest Department was accused of taking up for plantation or other forest purposes, lands which in the Survey Settlement had been assigned to the villages as free pasture. The Deputy Commissioner replied that the grievance was more imaginary than real, that in very few villages such lands were taken up for Forest purposes and that such alienations did not in the least affect the interests of the villagers concerned. He added moreover that the village cattle were freely let into the Government jungles for grazing during hot seasons or when grass failed in the allotted pasture tracts.

The Dewan said that individual cases of hardship would always be enquired into and decided on merits and that there were no grounds for passing general orders on the subject. His experience was that, Deputy Commissioners always watched and studied the raiyats' interests in these cases, and showed no undue sympathy for the Forest Department.

15. The request for separating kans from jungles and demarcating them accurately was, it was said, in the hands of the Survey Department, and that arrangements would be made to demarcate them early.

16. As on one or two previous occasions, the members wished again that tank repairs should be carried out as to details of kodi level, &c., with the concurrence of the Deputy Commissioners. The general complaint was, they said, that the Public Works Department after putting up high bunds and increasing the catchment areas often reduced the kodi levels, thereby rendering the costly repairs entirely useless. The Dewan said he could not possibly admit against the Public Works Department, such a sweeping charge ; and that there was a great deal of prejudice and inadequate knowledge of facts which were forcibly demonstrated to him when he personally examined a few of such complaints in the Kolar District. There might be, it is possible, stray cases of mistake committed by the Engineers, and the Government would always enquire into them and afford the remedy justly due.

17. The Judicial Department ruling that none but appointed Vakils should appear in Civil Courts was, it was urged, working great mischief ; the members chiefly sahukars, prayed that the rule might be modified to the extent, that in the Munsiff's Courts, parties might appoint any person they might choose, Vakils or not Vakils.

The grounds for the modification were, 1stly, the Vakils in the small Munsiffs' stations were very indifferent and being few in number, combined themselves and commanded heavy fees ; 2ndly, that most of them conducted the cases in English, which the parties did not understand which was a great nuisance to them in the Courts of first instance where facts had to be elicited and recorded ; 3rdly, that competent relations and friends could often be procured by the poorer clients either for a very small fee or sometimes gratis.

The Dewan regretted that he could not revive the old system which, after a very fair trial and unprejudiced examination, was found very unsatisfactory both for the good and efficient administration of justice and for the interest of the parties themselves.

18. Formation of a village court of panchayats, or of a court of village Munsiff, for trial of suits below 20 rupees and of petty criminal cases, was recommended on the ground that the measure would materially reduce the heavy work of the existing Judges and Magistrates, and there would be greater chance of real truth being ascertained in these courts than in the Taluk and District Courts.

The Dewan observed that the question was a very important one and the preliminary stage was a sound conviction after careful and very elaborate enquiry that Government could muster sufficient number of competent men in the villages to undertake this task. The subject could not be disposed of summarily.

19. The members next complained against great and undue increase of batta to witnesses in Civil Courts owing to frequent adjournments of cases : witnesses were brought in and sent away unexamined, cases being adjourned to another date : they were summoned again and perhaps again sent back unexamined, this increased the batta and court costs necessarily. The Dewan recognized that this was a ground for a complaint ; but he was not sure how far it was so general a complaint as represented. The Officiating Chief Judge, who was present at the discussion, was requested to make a note of the point for enquiry and adoption of needful measures.

20. The transfer of the Shikarpur Taluk to the jurisdiction of the Sagar Munsiff's Court was suggested. Some of the members, however, advocated the continuance of the present arrangement. This point was also referred to the Officiating Chief Judge. The Hoblis which were chiefly interested in the transfer were Belgami, Talgunda, Jambur and Udagani.

21. The members desired that Civil Court sales of attached property should be held in the villages or towns where the attachment was made : they also desired that herds of cattle attached should not be removed, unless the parties failed to give ample security for their production when wanted.

As regards the first point, the Dewan said that the Chief Court rules provided for it sufficiently ; the second point he would refer to the Chief Court for issue of necessary orders, the request being a fair one.

22. All the members of this and other Districts unanimously prayed that the Local Anche might not be given up to British Government. The Dewan said, it was a subject for the decision of His Highness the Maharaja, to whom he would submit the wishes of the members.

23. There was a very general desire for giving to the Amildars powers to try Breach of Contract for Service cases. The Tirthahalli, the Sorab and the Nagar Taluks were persistent in the demand.

The Dewan promised to consider the subject. He could not indiscriminately give to all Amildars the power under the Act which was one of the most difficult Acts to interpret, and there was a great danger in entrusting incompetent or inexperienced Amildars with this power.

24. The representatives suggested that all Circulars issued by the Government might be previously discussed by the Dasara Assembly.

The Dewan said that it was impossible and would necessitate the continuance of the Assembly during the entire year. The orders of each year or any orders of Government might be discussed during the Dasara Meeting freely, and the Government of His Highness would only be too glad to receive their opinions and adopt their reasonable amendments.

25. The attention of the Dewan was drawn to the rule regulating the treatment of excess in the minor Inams of the Maidan portion of Mysore: the rule was considered very just and liberal and the members solicited that it might be made applicable to the cases of the minor Inams in the Malnad as well.

In reply, the Dewan observed that most of the Malnad Inams were cash Inams and the rule, therefore, would not apply to them: if, however, on a local investigation there appeared good grounds for extending the rule as applied for, this would be done.

26. The last subject was imposition of octroi in Municipal stations on cloths: it was complained that when the tax was collected in one Municipality, and the cloths unsold there, were removed to another Municipality, the latter also collected octroi on them: they requested that the tax once paid in one station might be held good for all stations.

The point, it was said in reply, was under consideration: the relief sought, ought to be granted, the only question for decision was how the Municipality, which collected the tax, should pay a proportion of the collection to the other Municipality where also a portion of this article was sold; necessary orders would soon issue.

KADUR DISTRICT.

Messrs. Srinivasa Rao and Devarappa brought to the notice of the Dewan that, in contravention of the old never questioned mamul, that raiyats might take free of charge firewood and charcoal for their own *bonâ fide* use, there were published in the Government Gazette, No. 37 of the current year, rules directing the levy of seigniorage fees from them. The members requested the abolition of the fees.

The Dewan said the rules were not intended to do this and referring to the rules pointed out that that was not meant. Rule 10 ran thus:—

"These rules, so far as they prescribe seigniorage, shall not affect existing privileges of kandayam-paying raiyats and of mohatarfa-paying iron-smelters and iron-smiths to get firewood or charcoal free for their *bonâ fide* private use."

This was distinct, the Dewan admitted the Canarese translation was not very clear. He directed the Deputy Commissioners to refund the seigniorage fees that might have been collected in the Taluks through mistake arising from the indistinct Canarese translation.

2. Mr. Hedasi Sitarama Sastri renewed the suggestion which in former years was made by the Hassan supari growers, to the effect that the sayer on the article might be of two rates: one, the higher, to be collected on the superior kind of nuts, and the other, the lower rate, to be collected on the inferior or bette class; it was pleaded that the market price of the latter was very low and hardly yielded any profit to the grower and the sayer tax was felt very seriously.

The Dewan enquired whether there was recognized any difference between the two classes at any time in the history of Mysore; no definite reply was given; in fact, the only reply that might be given would be against the representation. The Dewan regretted that he could not sanction the prayer, as the difference in the rates might lead to fraud.

3. The members, all of them, not only of this District, but of all other Districts, were unanimous in recommending that the batta now granted to them for attending the Dasara Assembly, might be withdrawn; they did not consider it necessary; it hardly paid the expenses of the more respectable class of men among them, while on the whole, it proved to be somewhat heavy on the Government: they said they would cheerfully give it up and that would possibly improve the class of men attending this Meeting.

The Dewan issued instructions accordingly.

4. It was proposed that a proposition recommended by the majority of the representative members should be at once passed by the Government.

The Dewan observed that in theory it was a very fair proposal: but he would not, as at present advised, support it. He pointed out to them that in every year's discussion, he had paid the utmost deference possible to their wishes and sanctioned all reasonable proposals and that he could not at present promise them more: some of the proposals, he added, might affect the Imperial policy or the sanctioned principles of administration.

5. Mr. Kuppusami Pille of Tarikere admitted the equitable nature of the policy, inviting raiyats to do earthwork for their tanks; he recognized that it was the old well known tank policy of the Native administrations; he pointed out however that those administrations, in recognition of this service from the raiyats, had granted them certain privileges which did not exist now. The Dewan enquired what those privileges were. These were mentioned :—

1. Kona Inam.
2. Kerebandi.
3. Right of free fishery in the tanks.
4. Right to graze on the tank bunds.

The Dewan observed that most of these privileges were hardly of any value, the Inams were very minor Inams and the past experience showed that the Inamdars hardly did any work to the bunds. He was, however, willing to give them free fishery: the grazing could not possibly be granted; the grass might be cut and removed.

6. Mr. Kiggada Puttu Rao proposed that the shraya garden rules dated 17th September 1887 applicable to unassessed waste might fairly be made applicable to assessed waste as well, to Anadi Banjar, wet as well as dry which either from long neglect, or overgrowth of thick scrub and jungle trees might be considered by the Revenue authorities as difficult of improvement as unassessed waste.

The Dewan approved of the proposal and said he would fully consider the subject; he pointed out it would be necessary to clearly define what Anadi Banjar meant, the phrase being at present applied indiscriminately to all assessed waste lying waste for a few years.

7. The same member brought up again the subject of stone-bandhs versus earth-bandhs, as boundary marks of fields. There was every year a general consensus of opinion in favor of stone-bandhs and the proposal was every year seriously objected to by the Survey Superintendent, who, from actual experience, protested against it.

The Dewan said he could not give a decision just yet; he mentioned with regret that the Survey Superintendent had submitted several reports, bringing to the notice of Deputy Commissioners the wanton and repeated removal of stone-bandhs wherever they were sanctioned and put up. Yedatore, Talkad-Narsipur and some other Taluks had committed themselves most flagrantly in this point. He added that he could not possibly think of sanctioning the change until he was satisfied that due appreciation of the importance of keeping the boundary marks intact was the characteristic of the village officials.

8. Mr. Abdur Rahman spoke regarding the high upset price per acre of coffee lands. He recommended the abolition of the two rates and proposed an uniform rate of Rs. 5 in all parts of the Province.

The Dewan did not think it mattered very much in the large majority of cases what the upset price per acre was. He would, however, sanction Rs. 5 per acre for all new applications, not extensions of old plantations, of lots under five acres. The member was satisfied.

Mr. Sitarama Sastri repeated the prayer of the Shimoga garden owners for the abolition of the special garden rates. He put forward no new arguments and was referred to the reply already given to Shimoga.

10. Formation of industrial schools in convenient centres of the Mysore Province was recommended.

The Dewan said the question was a very large one and surrounded with difficulties. He promised to consider it.

As regards the request that Agricultural Inspectors might be directed to move about the country more often and to instruct the raiyats in the science and art of agriculture.

The Dewan said he had issued orders on the subject, but found the raiyats were extremely indifferent to such instructions.

At this point, several raiyats stood up and spoke in very poor terms of the competency of these officers to instruct; it was represented that very often they did not know enough of Kanarese to make the raiyats understand what they said.

11. Mr. Kiggada Puttu Rao drew the attention of the Dewan to the rule that raiyats should fell under license wood not exceeding the quantity mentioned in the license in terms of number of carts. He said the raiyats, through ignorance, often felled a little more, and they were prosecuted for it. He begged that this might not be done.

The Dewan asked the member to mention the cases alluded to by him. He could not give them just then, he said, but he knew there had been prosecutions. The Dewan pointed out there was nothing unreasonable in the rule which was necessary to protect forests against indiscriminate and wasteful felling. Excess felling of a small quantity through ignorance was never subject of prosecution. He also added that in such cases the remedy was in the raiyats' hands who had simply to mention the circumstance to the authorities and obtain permission to remove the excess felling.

12. Mr. Sankarappa asked for early allotment of Soppina Betta to the Malnad holdings.

It would be commenced in December of the current year.

13. Mr. Patre Rudrappa of Birur recommended the removal of silt by raiyats from the bed of the Madaga Tank.

The Dewan had no objection, if the raiyats were willing.

14. He also brought to notice that drinking water-supply to the town of Birur was very scanty, and recommended that water might be brought to the town from the Madaga Tank channel.

The Dewan said the town was a Municipal station and the Board were at full liberty to adopt necessary measures.

15. Mr. Abdur Rahman Sahib and other Muhammadan gentlemen requested that the poorer boys of their religion might be educated in Government schools free and that in consequence of the backward condition of the Muhammadan community in the matter of education which prevented them from competing with young men of

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other castes in securing Government appointments, the rule prescribing examination qualifications might be held in abeyance for a certain number of years.

The Dewan pointed out that there were rules which sanctioned free education to Muhammadan lads deserving of the indulgence. Special scholarships also were provided for them and it was not possible to multiply the privileges. As regards the examination rules, he regretted he could not hold them back in favor of any particular community, as it would prove a most inconvenient precedent. He might tell them that there were other communities in the country other than Muhammadan whose education was in equally backward state and they might with equal justice claim the privilege.

16. Mr. Yedahalli Sankarappa, as in previous years, solicited the favor of granting to the inhabitants of his town, the forest privileges enjoyed by all others in the District. He admitted that the circumstances under which those privileges once enjoyed by the Yedahalli men were withdrawn from them some years back were against him ; there was great waste and fraud committed ; but he submitted that the men had amply suffered for their crime and they might be granted back the valuable privileges.

The Dewan issued orders granting the request, warning them at the same time against repetition of their irregular conduct.

17. The same member said that the order prohibiting cultivation within a certain distance from the toe of tank and channel bunds required another modification which was not brought to the Dewan's notice by the Shimoga representatives. He explained that small pools of water and other insignificant "Kattes" were included in the order as they were also registered and numbered by the Public Works Department. He thought the order was not meant to apply to them.

The Dewan concurred and said that the rule ought not to be applicable to small tanks of Rs. 50 and less Atchkat. He told them to understand distinctly that such tanks should be repaired and kept in order by the holders of the Atchkat and that Government would not take them up.

18. The allotment of "Gaw Thana" (village chawki) to each village in the Malnad, and the grant of an extent of land as Hittal to each house were asked for. The Dewan admitted the fairness of the request and promised to study it. The Hittal or backyard was as much wanted for the houses of Malnad raiyats as Soppinbetta for the lands in that tract. He hoped to make a fair settlement.

19. Some of the members representing that unassessed waste lands were sometimes not granted when applied for, on the ground that there were assessed lands available in the village, the Dewan ruled that the procedure was irregular and it should be abandoned ; all such applications should be granted, he said, and questioned whether the minimum limit of one acre for gardens in the case of these applications might not be prohibitive, and suggested for the consideration of the Deputy Commissioner and Survey Superintendent, whether it might not be lowered.

As regards the representation that applications for division of large assessed waste numbers into convenient smaller numbers were often discouraged he said that this was equally irregular and that the division should be effected as applied for in cases of applications for waste lands.

20. Mr. Mudgere Hutche Gauda submitted the following four subjects :—

(1) The advisability of investing the Amildar of the Taluk with power to try cases of Breach of Contract for service.

(2) The justice in the Malnad, of collecting on dry lands, assessment of one year for two years' occupation.

(3) The abolition of annual renewal of licenses under the Arms Act, but annual collection of fees nevertheless.

(4) The grant of jungle land fit for coffee cultivation.

The Dewan said that in the Mudgere and other Malnad Taluks, the coffee planting community and other large land-owners would derive much advantage from the Amildars exercising the power under the Act: he referred the member to the reply given to the same representation from the Tirthahalli members of the Shimoga District. He would consider the question and post, if possible, competent and experienced Amildars to these taluks who would be capable interpreting the Act equitably.

With reference to the second subject, the Dewan concurred that the indulgence asked for was quite rational, as in the Malnad the dry land was seldom cultivable in the first year it was taken up: and the dry cultivation was generally abandoned after a year's crop was secured. He promised to issue orders.

The 3rd subject that regarding the Arms Act involved, the Dewan admitted a real grievance, as under the License, the holder was bound to get it renewed annually, and default exposed him to prosecutions—default probably due to causes beyond the holder's control. The remedy suggested by the member was rational and easy which was to grant a permanent license and collect the fee annually. The Dewan would favorably consider the subject.

The last subject referred to the prohibition against granting lands less than 50 acres in the midst of jungles for coffee or any cultivation. The Dewan thought the rule might be relaxed and that applications might be granted freely unless the jungle was very valuable and required conservation in the interests of Forests.

MYSORE DISTRICT.

The Mysore Taluk.

Mr. Virasangappa.—Huge gravel pits are dug on dry lands and these dry lands are now converted into wet; but no deduction in the extent of such wet lands is made on account of these pits; either such deductions ought to be made, or the pits should be filled up by the Government.

The Dewan.—Please give a list of these pits and orders will issue for filling them up.

2. The same member :—

The standing rules prohibit cultivation of lands overgrown with date trees. The rules should be thus modified.

Dry lands with 50 trees per acre and less, and wet lands with 100 trees per acre and less, might be given out for cultivation.

The Dewan said that Deputy Commissioners had been granted wide discretion in the disposal of such cases.

3. Application for kharab lands in bechirakh villages were, it was urged, rejected: Mr. Virasangappa said there was no reason for rejecting them. The Dewan wished to know what particular applications the member referred to, the Deputy Commissioner having said that no such applications had been received by him. The member had no particular instances to mention, but simply discussed the general question.

4. Permission was solicited for dry or garden cultivation of lands on either side of the tank feeding channels. The Deputy Commissioner said no such applications had been filed in his office and the Dewan said he would deal with each application on its merits and declined to grant a general permission as solicited.

5. ~~The member recommended that in civil cases compromised~~ out of Court, the Judges should be empowered to refund half the stamp duty. The Dewan regretted that such refunds were not known in any of the administrations and he was not prepared to concede it.

6. Reduction of fees to Advocates in cases of immovable property worth Rs. 50 and under was urged, and the Dewan said that the Chief Court was discussing the subject.

7. Constitution of a Munsiff's Court at Hunsur on the ground that the Mysore Court file was heavy, was advocated.

The Dewan.—The Chief Court has not found the necessity for a Court at Hunsur: the recommendation however will be considered.

8. Complaints were made that witnesses were kept in attendance in Courts later than 6 in the evening: the puisne Judge present said that orders were strict against such practice and the breach of order would be severely noticed if brought before the Chief Court.

9. Mr. Annaiyapandit along with Virasangappa requested that the Town Magistrate might, as before, be empowered to control the Town Police on the ground that the Police was getting thoroughly out of hand and utterly careless: in connection with this discussion, the member for the Rate Payers' Association contended that neither the Magistrate nor the Municipality should have anything to do with the Police and that the Police should be entirely separate. He pointed out that the separation in Bangalore had not in the slightest degree affected prejudicially either the discipline or the usefulness of the force.

The Dewan said he would not sanction any change in the existing arrangement in the absence of specific charges against the Police.

10. The water rate of Rs. 100 and Rs. 50 a year for full and half service pipes for private houses was considered a heavy charge and reduction was advocated. The Dewan said that the rate was intentionally prohibitive, as the supply of water was scanty and barely satisfied the wants of public fountains. He was prepared to reduce the rates when the supply was ample.

11. The construction of a big drain from north to south of the Mysore Town was asked for. The scheme, it was replied, was under consideration.

12. The entire abolition of octroi in Mysore was pressed. The Dewan said he was not in the least anxious to keep this tax up and he was prepared to do away with it, provided the Municipality had other sources of revenue to fall back upon. He said he would give the Municipality full discretionary powers in dealing with this subject.

13. All land revenue within Municipal limits should, it was urged, be handed over to the Board. The Dewan concurred.

The Hunsur Taluk.

Mr. Basavalingaiya advocated the restoration of Kerebandi Inams, abolition of octroi on supari, or complete revival of octroi on all articles, supari, cocoanuts, tobacco, &c., construction of certain roads.

He was told in reply that Kerebandi Inams did no good service and the abolition was a relief; that the abolition of octroi on supari would be a needless sacrifice of revenue and was not felt by the grower and that the complete revival of this tax on all articles as heretofore would be a step backward in the administration. As regards the roads recommended, the member was asked to make the necessary application through the Local Board.

The member for Malvalli Mr. Mahomed Ali was not present.

Yedatore Taluk.

Mr. Mallikarjunayia complained against the irregular water supply of Kamasamudram Channel. The Public Works Secretary's attention was drawn to it for early removal of the complaint.

2. Construction of small bridges or panabus across channels was asked for. The Dewan promised that this would be done.

3. Requested that hot weather supply of water might be given to lands below Krishnarajkatte north channel. After consultation with Public Works Secretary, the Dewan pointed out the impossibility of granting it owing to insufficiency of water supply after satisfying the demands of raiyats elsewhere who, by long usage, had a prior right.

Attikuppa Taluk.

Mr. Marlingegauda.—The question was asked why the Government should not give out assessed waste on Hulgaval tenure till such time as genuine applications were put in for its cultivation : this would give Government a fair revenue whereas now the waste land yielded nothing. It was said in reply that once such land was given out on Hulgaval lease, it would remain so for ever, especially in the Attikuppa and other cattle breeding Taluks. The step proposed was not advisable to take.

2. All temples in ruins should be repaired by the Government, the member urged, as the Government were the trustees of the institutions. The Dewan said that as much as possible was being done in the case of important temples and that minor temples suffered from want of funds.

3. A road was asked for from Melkote to Sravanabelagula. Noted.

Gundlupet Taluk.

Mr. Jagannathaiya advocated the grant on Hulgaval tenure of all tank beds when there was no water in the tanks. Mr. Nanjundaiya of Davangere along with several other members of different Taluks and Districts condemned the proposal; urging that the well established rule of not allowing any right permanent or temporary to spring up in the tank beds was excellent and should not be modified to any extent. The proposal was rejected.

Heggaddevankote Taluk.

Mr. Rangaiengar recommended the restoration of the old channel by the construction of an Ané at Bengahalli. The project was referred to the Public Works Department for examination.

2. List of works proposed by the member was put in and was handed over to the Secretary, Public Works Department.

3. The extension of Reserve forests worked a great hardship, inasmuch as the raiyats were deprived of sufficient jungles for felling wood for their own purposes and for purposes of agriculture : the step, it was suggested, might be abandoned as the Government reserve already was sufficiently large.

The subject was referred to the Inspector General of Forests for careful enquiry.

4. Recommended the transfer of the Taluk from the jurisdiction of the Nanjangud Munsiff to the Court of Mysore.

The point would be considered.

5. Recommended repairs to the temples of Heggaddevankote and Belatur.

Noted.

6. It was urged that the District Forests accessible to the raiyats contained little or no wood for agricultural purposes and not even grass for their cattle. A larger extent of forests and of better kind was requested. The Dewan directed the Deputy Commissioner to enquire into the complaint at jamabandi time and dispose of it in communication with the Inspector General of Forests.

7. The members complained that taluk officials insisted upon darkhasts being written by the Shanbhogs and that this gave the Shanbhogs an opportunity of doing a great deal of mischief.

The members were told in reply, that there was no rule of Government to that effect, that undoubtedly the Shanbhogs, as a general rule, wrote the darkhasts, but it was entirely optional and the applicants were not at all bound to go to him, but might get them written by any other person.

8. Remission of mohatarfa tax in favor of Shikmidars was recommended. The Dewan regretted he could not support it.

Chamrajnagar Taluk.

Mr. Annaiyapandit submitted there was no rain, no water in tank, and wet assessment was being demanded : suggested that orders might issue for remission of notice fees, interest and partial assessment.

The Dewan said it was too early to discuss the subject and that every reasonable consideration would be shown if the season proved disastrous.

2. Submitted that the inam village of Venkataiyana Chattram resumed for default of payment of Government dues, might be restored after the Government

had collected from it, amount equal to the amount of default. The Dewan stated in full the circumstances under which the default was committed, the several chances given for the payment of the dues and the persistent default committed by the inamdars. He declined to consider the question of restoration.

3. Assessment on lands under tanks purely rain-fed was higher than that collected on lands under river-fed tanks: the anomaly should be removed.

The point would be considered at settlement.

Nanjangud Taluk.

MEMBERS.

Messrs. 1. Kote Venkataramanaiya.
2. Narasimhaiya.
3. Naranappa.

Begged that the old rules sanctioning remission of wet assessment in part or whole when water failed partially or wholly, might be revived.

The Dewan observed that the object of the Survey Settlement was to do away with these remission rules by fixing a moderate rate of assessment; he regretted he could not revive the old objectionable system.

2. Suggested that the abolished "Mudi Terige" might be revived: the tax was collected during the jatra and from the pilgrims: the amount came up to a good round sum which would considerably augment the Municipal revenue thereby giving the Municipality a fair chance of keeping the Nanjangud Kasaba in a fairly healthy and clean state.

The Dewan said that the tax was a barbarous one, but he would not object if the Municipality recommended it.

3. Advocated that the Nanjangud temple might be placed in the hands of a Panchayat.

The Dewan promised to consider the question.

4. Mr. Hanumanta Rao thought it hard that raiyats who paid heavy wet assessment should be compelled to remove silt and plants from the channel beds. He was told in reply that this liability of which he complained was very old and well recognized and was known in the days when the wet assessment was higher than now. The complaint was groundless.

Mandya Taluk.

Mr. Ramanna suggested that the Chikdevarayasagar Channel might be extended to irrigate lands in the Mandya Taluk and (the late) Maddur Sub-Taluk.

The Dewan reminded him of the answer given to this suggestion the previous year: the project was not feasible.

Regarding the prayer of the same member for the restoration of the almost ruined temple of Sri Narasimhaswami at Maddur, the Dewan said that it would be a vain and hopeless task for the Government to undertake the restoration of all the ruined temples. The existing orders on the subject provided for the repairs of very important temples, and with that the Government should remain content.